Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Marianas Stars Entertainment, Inc.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI DESERVE BETTER!

www.marianasstars.com

LEGEND OF THE OCEAN

INTEGRATED THEME PARK & CASINO RESORT, SAIPAN

Consultants: It's Best Sunshine

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the Lottery Commission led by chairman Sixto Igisomar, front row, fourth from right, along with representatives from casino applicants Best Sunshine International Ltd. and Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. and members of the public, listen to consultants' presentation of the results of their review and investigation into the two casino license applications, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday afternoon. The two consultants recommend Best Sunshine over Marianas Stars, but the Lottery Commission will decide on the matter today.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Two U.S.-based consultants hired to investigate and review two applications for a license to build a casino on Saipan separately recommended Best Sunshine International Ltd. over Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. But the final decision whether to award the hard-fought license to Best Sunshine still rests with the Lottery Commission, which meets again at 2pm today for that decision.

» Lottery Commission to decide on casino license today

The Lottery Commission hired The Innovation Group of Companies and B2G Global Strategies for a total of some $500,000 to look into the proposed casino resort development plans and the backgrounds of the applicants, respectively.

Best Sunshine scored 67.5, while Marianas Stars got a rating of 51.0 on a scale of 1 to 100 with 100 as the highest. That's a 16.5-point difference.

This is based on the Innovation Group's evaluation of the applicants' Saipan casino resort development plan.

"While Best Sunshine's score of 67.5

See CONSULTANTS on Page 4

Inos asks Boehner to pass CNMI bill soon

» HR 4296 extends asylum bar, E2-C visa, H visa cap exemption

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked U.S. House Speaker John Boehner to prioritize and pass a time-critical bill with significant economic impact on the CNMI, including extending beyond 2014 the CNMI's exemption from accepting asylum applications to protect the islands' tourism industry and prohibiting future five-year administrative extension of a foreign worker program.

Boehner

H.R. 4296, introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), also extends the E2-C investor visa program expiring in 2014 and extends the CNMI and Guam's exemption from the national H visa cap also beyond 2014.

See BOEHNER on Page 4

Arctic Circle Air is back online. PAGE 2
Democratic Party billboards vandalized. PAGE 3

IT&E

The Best 4G Experience Has Arrived!

Local

Arctic Circle Air is back online

After temporarily halting flights in May for annual maintenance, Arctic Circle Air is now ready to provide passenger and cargo service between Saipan and Rota.

According to Sheila N. Sambile, customer service supervisor for Arctic Circle Air, customers can ship anything from paper documents, to frozen goods, and even equipment like scooters.

Dry cargo under 60lbs is charged $30 flat. Frozen cargo under 65lb is charged $35 flat. Envelopes or documents cost $15.

Roundtrip flights between Saipan and Rota is $219 and one-way ticket is $110.

Flights between Guam and Rota are expected to be approved soon by the Ports Authority of Guam. A separate Arctic Circle Air email did not mention anything about flights to Tinian.

For more information call 288-8877/8875/8876. For Rota reservation, contact the Rota Resort at (670) 532-1155. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

HAIDEE V. EUGENIIO

PASS IT NOW!
Retirees crowd the governor's main conference room on Capital Hill on Friday to witness Gov. Eloy S. Inos sign into law a bill fixing ambiguities in the Saipan casino law.

2014 statewide needs assessment report of OVR and SRC now out

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Rehabilitation Council, and the Interwork Institute at San Diego State University jointly conducted an assessment of the vocational rehabilitation needs of persons with disabilities in the CNMI. The purpose of the assessment was to provide planners with information pertinent to the allocation of resources, to provide a rationale for the development of OVR's State Plan, and to comply with the needs assessment mandate in the Rehabilitation Act.

The process that was developed for conducting the needs assessment involved four primary data-gathering approaches:

- Focus groups conducted with two stakeholder groups (individuals with disabilities and representatives of organizations that provide services to persons with disabilities),
- Key informant interviews conducted with OVR staff and community partners knowledgeable about the needs of individuals with disabilities in the CNMI,
- Analysis of OVR case service data, and
- Analysis of electronic and hard copy surveys of OVR consumers and community partners.

Through the data collection efforts, researchers solicited information from three primary stakeholder groups: (a) former, current or potential consumers of OVR located throughout Saipan, Tinian and Rota; (b) representatives of organizations that provide services to individuals who are potential or actual consumers of OVR; and (c) OVR staff. The approach was designed to capture input from a variety of perspectives in order to acquire a sense of the multifaceted needs of persons with disabilities in the CNMI. Efforts were made to gather information pertinent to the following subjects:

- Individuals served by OVR
- Needs of individuals with the most significant disabilities, including their need for supported employment
- Needs of individuals with disabilities from different ethnic groups, including needs of individuals who have been unserved or underserved by the VR program
- Needs of individuals with disabilities served through other components of the statewide workforce investment system
- Needs of individuals in transition
- Needs to establish, develop or improve CRPs (community rehabilitation programs) in the CNMI
- Other needs of individuals with disabilities (not captured in the other categories)

In each of the seven sections, OVR agency data is presented, observations are made based on the data, survey results are analyzed, consensual and recurring themes from the individual and focus group interviews are identified, and then recommendations are made to help OVR effectively meet the identified needs in each area.

The needs assessment project team would like to express their appreciation to each individual who took the time to share their thoughts and concerns by taking part in a key informant interview, participating in the focus group research, or by completing an electronic or hard copy survey.

For more information about the needs assessment report or to obtain a copy, contact the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation at 670) 322-6537/8; TTY: (670) 322-6449; fax: (670) 322-6536; email: nmidir@ovrgov.net; or P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950. ***(OVR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Statewide Independent Living Council

"Yes I Can!"

P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • TEL: (670) 322-6537/8
FAX: (670) 322-6536 • TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2014 Third General Membership Meeting on Monday, July 21, 2014 at the Tinian Room, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino at 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (May 1, 2014)
V. Reports
a. SILC Chairperson
b. CLI Executive Director
c. OVR Director
VI. Old Business
a. Community Outreach
b. FY 2015 State Plan for Independent Living
VII. New Business
a. Advance Notice of Council Activities
b. Training for Outreach
c. Promotional Materials
d. Statewide Independent Living Council Vision
e. Labor Day
VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require reasonable accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Ms. Elvira Seman (OVR Administrative Assistant) at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) for necessary arrangements no later than Wednesday, July 16, 2014.

/s/ Consolacion Atalig
SILC Chairperson

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW14-IFB-004

THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, AND COMMISSIONING OF THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR THE WIC PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND CLINIC PROGRAM, UPPER NAVY HILL, SAIPAN

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofshchneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, and Commission of the Emergency generators for the WIC Program Administration and Clinic Building, Upper Navy Hill, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **July 01, 2014**, at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set and in order to bid on this project. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 18, 2014** at 9:00 a.m. local time at the WIC Program Administration and Clinic Building, Upper Navy Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 29, 2014** to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with all prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Pubic Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-14-IFB-004". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **August 1, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **August 1, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 1, 2014**, and must be received no later than **August 12, 2014.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **August 15, 2014**, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on **August 1, 2014**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred dollars (**$100.00**) for each and every day the work is delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Ex-convict in gun case questions cops' search of his car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Attorney Michael Dotts filed yesterday a motion that questioned the constitutionality of the search conducted by two police officers on a car driven by an ex-convict where they seized handguns and ammunitions.

Dotts, as counsel for Daniel Muña Quitugua, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to exclude as evidence the handguns and ammunitions found in the car on May 23, 2014.

Dotts argued that the search was unconstitutional because the police had neither Quitugua's consent or probable cause to conduct the search. He said the search was not justified under the Fourth Amendment, which ensures "the right of the people to be secure…against unreasonable searches and seizures."

Quitugua is a federal probationer who has been indicted over the alleged illegal guns and ammunitions that he left behind when he ran away from police officers who stopped him for a traffic violation.

The indictment charged Quitugua with one count of felon in possession of a firearm.

According to the indictment, Quitugua was found in possession of one Sig Sauer model P226 9mm pistol; one Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver; 90 rounds of .45 caliber ammunition; 50 rounds of .38 caliber ammunition; and 62 rounds of 9mm ammunition on May 23, 2014.

In Quitugua's motion to suppress, Dotts said two police officers alleged that they smelled burnt marijuana coming from a car driven by Quitugua when the latter was stopped for speeding.

When one officer asked to be allowed to search the car, Quitugua refused, Dotts said. That officer then reportedly instructed Quitugua and his passenger to step out of the vehicle so the officer could do a search.

Dotts said the search resulted in the discovery of a bag containing guns and ammunitions but did not result in the discovery of evidence on the use of marijuana.

Quitugua was then charged with being a felon in possession of a weapon, he said.

Dotts admitted that his client is a felon and a drug user and that in fact the court knows he has repeatedly tested positive for methamphetamine or "ice" since being released from prison.

Quitugua, however, has never tested positive for marijuana, Dotts said.

The lawyer said the smell of burnt marijuana, plus the fact that Quitugua could not produce a driver's license, were the only basis for the search that ended up uncovering the guns.

Dotts said the issue before the court is whether the uncorroborated testimony of police officers that they smelled marijuana is enough to establish probable cause to search a vehicle.

The 4th Amendment, he pointed out, generally requires police to secure a warrant before conducting a search.

Here, Dotts noted, the two officers claim they smelled marijuana but the record fails to show that any marijuana was actually collected. With no marijuana collected from the car on either May 23 or June 5, Dotts said there is no evidence to corroborate the human sense of smell.

"As there is no corroborating physical evidence of marijuana, probable cause to search did not exist," he added.

Quitugua was convicted in federal court in 2005 and sentenced to 120 months in prison for an armed robbery at a poker arcade in 2004. His supervised release began on Jan. 14, 2013.

Police arrested Quitugua for allegedly speeding and running away from police officers, leaving behind a bag that contained three illegal guns and bullets near Northern Marianas College on May 23, 2014.

Democratic Party billboards vandalized

by DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Political billboards installed by Democratic Party candidates were vandalized or stolen over the weekend, according to party chair Rosiky Camacho.

He said that Commonwealth flags were stolen from the billboard trailer of Edward Masga Deleon Guerrero and Daniel Ogo Quitugua, candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, the trailer of Antonio Pinaula Mareham, candidate for Saipan mayor, and Jesus Ilo Taisague, candidate for the Senate.

The trailers were located along Tun Herman Pan Road leading to the airport.

The flagpole for Taisague's trailer was also destroyed. Camacho noted that the pole was welded so it would have taken some strength to pull down.

He said he thinks the damage occurred on Friday night because a Democratic Party member discovered the damage early Saturday morning.

According to him, a CNMI flag was also stolen two weeks ago in Koberville from the trailer of the four Democratic Party candidates for Precinct 1.

Camacho said they did not report the flag stolen because it was only one flag and children playing around may have done it.

However, with the four flags stolen and one welded pole destroyed at the Tun Herman Pan Road, Camacho felt obliged to report the damage.

In addition, Camacho said that billboards in Chalan Piao opposing casino on Saipan were pulled down about a month ago.

He said he is not aware of the exact costs of damage but if the party had to keep replacing flags and repairing poles it may cost much.

Camacho asks whoever is or are responsible for these actions to refrain from doing more destruction.

"Just vote for whatever decision your heart tells you but please do not destroy those billboards; respect the hard work and time of the people that erected them," he said.

See related letter to the editor on Page 11

CONSULTANTS

From Page 1

out of 100 points reflects an acceptable threshold on which to base negotiations, the successful negotiation of a strong development agreement should effectively increase the score to above at least 85 points on a parallel basis," The Innovation Group president Michael Soll said.

Soll presented the findings to the public during a Lottery Commission meeting yesterday afternoon at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

He was accompanied by Joel Rittvo, director of architecture design at the Innovation Group, an international provider of consulting and management services for the gaming, hospitality, leisure, and entertainment industries.

B2G Global Strategies found "significant adverse finding" regarding the failure of Marianas Stars' parent company, Mega Stars Overseas, to comply with regulatory requirements and failure to sufficiently cooperate with a regulatory agency, the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

B2G Global Strategies, through project manager for the CNMI Steve Gomez, said the significant adverse finding relates to involvement in the operations at Tinian Dynasty without proper licensing and problematic compliance with the TCGCC.

Mega Stars has bought Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

In his presentation, Gomez said B2G concluded that Best Sunshine would be "suitable" to be issued a license.

Gomez was accompanied at the presentation by B2G's Lisa Garcia.

B2G, an international consulting and investigations firm specializing in security consulting, due diligence investigations, and strategic solutions for the business sector and government entities, looked into four areas in evaluating Best Sunshine and Marianas Stars' background: gaming experience and regulatory compliance, organizational structure, source of financing, and personnel background checks.

Sixto Igisomar, chairman of the four-member Lottery Commission, said yesterday that no decision was made during the commission's executive session following the consultants' presentation.

He said the commission meets again at 2pm today at the multi-purpose center to discuss the consultants' recommendations.

"We will make a decision [Tuesday]. What that decision is, we would not know until [Tuesday]," added Igisomar, who is also the Department of Commerce secretary.

The three other commissioners present yesterday were Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, Deputy Attorney General Gil Birnbrich, and Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero.

Best Sunshine

Terence Tay, Best Sunshine's chief operating officer, said the evaluation results were a "pretty good health check" on what Best Sunshine is doing right and the issues it has to take note of.

"We're quite happy to hear the presentation by the consultants because at least we know what we have to do to improve, what are the things that we are doing right," he said shortly after the consultants' presentation.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The Innovation Group of Companies president Michael Soll, right, presents the results of their evaluation of the two applicants' Saipan casino resort development proposal, while Joel Rittvo, director of architecture design, left, looks on yesterday.

As to B2G's findings that Best Sunshine may attract negative attention because of First Natural Food's close ties to junket operator Hang Seng, Tay said, "Junket operations sometimes bring about negative press reports but not all junkets are involved in shady businesses."

"There are very well-run junket operators and I believe Hang Seng is one of them. There are junket operators even in Singapore, and these are very closely regulated by authorities," he said.

Tay said some junket operators are known as independent agents, while some are known as international marketing agents "but basically they by and large contribute to the business of casino."

B2G's evaluation of Best Sunshine's organizational structure indicates "no adverse finding."

When asked whether Best Sunshine is confident it would be granted the exclusive Saipan casino license, Tay said it would be up to the Lottery Commission but he said Best Sunshine is "heartened" by what they heard yesterday from the consultants.

Tay also reiterated that Best Sunshine has been checking out properties on Saipan, but was not saying which ones are on the top of their list. When asked whether a public land in Marpi and the current site of the Hopwood Junior High School are among them, Tay said they have looked at those as well.

The Innovation Group said their recommendation implies that Best Sunshine and its casino resort proposal are commercially acceptable as a basis for entering negotiations for a "development agreement," and between the two proposals submitted, Best Sunshine's has the highest potential for maximizing benefits to the CNMI based on the weighing criteria that the Lottery Commission has set.

Marianas Stars

Marianas Stars representatives and consultants were also at the Lottery Commission meeting and presentation, just like representatives from Best Sunshine.

In a statement hours after the meeting, Marianas Stars said it "respects and appreciates the findings from consultants The Innovation Group and B2G Global Strategies."

However, with respect to B2G'sconclusions regarding parent company Mega Stars' gaming operations on Tinian, "Mega Stars wants to clarify that it has in fact been cooperating with the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission as it regards TCGCC Resolution No. 14-01 dated May 23rd, 2014."

"While there had been some areas of confusion between Mega Stars and the TCGCC that led to said resolution, these matters have since been addressed in a series of exchanges between the two parties. Mega Stars has attempted at every step along the way to explain our positions clearly to the TCGCC, to seek its input, ideas, and to work cooperatively with it to resolve any issues that arise. We remain committed to Tinian, and we hope that our investment there remains economically viable for us," it added.

Public

At the start of the meeting and before the presentation of reports, two individuals got up for the public comment period. Businessman Juan Demapan said he wanted to comment but he didn't know about the consultants' report, while Gary Dubrall sought clarification as to when a decision will be made.

Dubrall later said the presentation and commission meeting were "a continuation of the farce" on the whole casino matter.

He believes it's a "foregone conclusion" to pick Best Sunshine, accusing the governor and some lawmakers of promising Best Sunshine an exclusive license when they were invited to Macau.

Paul Zak, a businessman, said he was at the presentation to see whether there's any business opportunity to be had, now that a casino license award is imminent.

"Any time a company wants to spend money here, we should look for a business opportunity," he said. Zak is a shareholder of local airline Arctic Circle Air.

Clyde Norita, a retiree, said he was at the presentation as a "concerned citizen," along with former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente and Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Joe Lifoifoi.

Norita was one of three individuals who rallied retirees to Capital Hill last week to put pressure on the House and Senate to pass a bill that would fix the ambiguities in the Saipan casino law and fully empower the Lottery Commission to award a license. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed the bill into law on Friday, also in the presence of retirees and former defined benefit plan members.

A grant of an exclusive license would trigger the release of a $30 million bank deposit that would be used to pay retirees' deferred 25-percent pension since last year, as well as the accrued interest on withdrawn DB plan contributions.

Authorizing casino operation on Saipan remains one of the most divisive issues in the CNMI.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Steve Gomez, left, B2G Global Strategies project manager for the CNMI, presents the results of their investigation into the two casino license applicants, while B2G's Lisa Garcia, right, looks on yesterday afternoon.

BOEHNER

From Page 1

The U.S. Senate has already approved by unanimous consent S. 1237, extending the four programs in question.

Inos said HR 4296 could be expected to find approval at the Senate after House passage.

HR 4296 already cleared the House Natural Resources and Judiciary Committees and could be considered on the floor.

"I write to ask that you give the measure, HR 4296, some priority on your legislative agenda," Inos said in a July 11 letter to Boehner, a copy of which was released by the administration yesterday.

Inos said he understands the sensitivities surrounding immigration but HR 4296 "makes no change to any existing policy."

The bill extends by five years the CW or Commonwealth-only foreign worker program scheduled to expire this year. U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez used his administrative power on June 3 to extend the CW program up to 2019.

But HR 4296 also sets a cut-off in law, to prevent any future administrative extension of the CW program now in effect.

Most important among the four policies that the bill covers is a bar on claims of political asylum in the CNMI.

"This has helped support a four-fold growth in tourism from China over the last five years. China continues to be a growth market; and extending the asylum bar through 2019 will help maintain that growth," Inos told Boehner.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security currently allows Chinese and Russian tourists to enter the CNMI without a U.S. visa.

Come Jan. 1, 2015, the CNMI would be required once again to accept asylum applications unless that exemption is extended. The CNMI is wary that tourists would seek asylum in the Commonwealth, and that the CNMI would caught the ire of the Chinese government which could restrict tourist travel to the islands.

The bill also ensures a sufficient supply of labor needed by the U.S. military during Marines' realignment from Okinawa to the Marianas, by extending an exemption from the national numerical cap on H visas.

The realignment was originally expected to be well underway by now, but has been delayed by about five years.

HR 4296 also seeks to extend the E2-C investor visa program. The program benefits foreign investors who went into business in the CNMI prior to the start of federal immigration.

"The number of these investors is fixed, and the loss of their investment would be damaging to our economy," Inos said.

IT&E launches new wireless network in NMI, Guam

IT&E, the regional telecommunication leader, is pleased to introduce its newest network in the CNMI and Guam with the capability to meet the wireless needs of its subscribers well into the future.

IT&E has built a brand new, state-of-the-art network on the islands of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to provide its subscribers with The Best 4G Experience. This means subscribers will enjoy not only consistent, reliable high data speeds, better/seamless overall roaming experience while traveling abroad, but also a wider range of affordable wireless devices that rival any other regional carrier as well as a great range of postpaid rate plans aligned with everyone's needs.

IT&E now has more choices with affordable SIM-based phones including the latest smartphones, the widest selection of tablets and mobile broadband gadgets. Many of these devices are also 4G LTE compatible for even a faster data speed experience in the areas served.

The new rate plans are even competitive and truly the best value in the market today. All users on IT&E's new network have access to 4G data and can select a set volume of high-speed data per month based on the rate plan chosen.

"We are excited to offer these 4G data rate plans with features exclusive only to IT&E," stated Joy Santos, IT&E general manager and executive director for Marketing. "Now our subscribers have the capability to top-up directly from their device, receive automatic notifications when they near their plan's data volume, or the option to check their data usage all via SMS."

According to John Compton, IT&E CEO, "Our long-term strategic goal always has been to provide our customers with highest level of service experience and we have achieved a significant milestone with the deployment of IT&E's new network."

"Each and every one of our employees took ownership working long hours to see this project to its fruition and we applaud them all," Compton added.

For more information about IT&E's coverage and service, contact IT&E Customer Care in the CNMI at (670) 682-4ITE (4483) or IT&E Customer Care in Guam at (671) 922-4483. ***(IT&E)***

Mondala arraignment postponed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The arraignment of former Office on Aging director Rose DLG. Mondala did not push through yesterday after Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George L. Hasselback failed to appear at the hearing.

» OPA legal counsel fails to appear at hearing

Only Mondala and her counsel, assistant public defender Eden Schwartz, appeared in court. Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja reset the arraignment to Monday, July 21, at 9am.

Hasselback later told *Saipan Tribune* that his non-appearance is a "non-issue" as the court has already rescheduled the arraignment.

As to why OPA has yet to file its information against Mondala, Hasselback said, "That's being done as we speak."

Mondala's original arraignment date was July 7, 2014, but the parties' counsel asked to continue the arraignment for yesterday, citing that "it is in the best interests of the judicial administration of this case."

Mondala, 69, was arrested and taken to court last June 27 after OPA charged her with using the Aging Office's funds and materials for the needs of the Covenant Party during the 2009 elections and to build a fence at her house in Kagman.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo released Mondala on a $7,500 unsecured or appearance bond.

The complaint charged Mondala with theft; theft of services; forgery; use of office, staff or employees of public office; restraints on use of public position to obtain benefits for business or social acquaintances; restraints on use of public supplies, time and personnel for campaign activities; and misconduct in public office.

OPA investigator Juanette F. David-Atalig stated in her report that the investigation began in September 2009 when their office received a complaint that then-Office on Aging director Mondala was using the office's kitchen and staff to prepare food for the Covenant Party's political rally.

Quichocho's bench warrant quashed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona quashed the bench warrant against attorney Ramon K. Quichocho yesterday and directed the clerk of court to accept his $1,200 cash bail.

If within 24 hours of posting bail Quichocho agrees to release the bail amount to Ming Yang Corp. to satisfy the $1,200 sanction of legal fees, Manglona said the court will vacate the show-cause order and close the matter.

The judge said if Quichocho does not give such notice, the matter will be set for a show-cause hearing, at which the lawyer will be permitted to appear telephonically on condition that he secure a lawyer to appear in person.

Manglona issued the bench warrant against Quichocho on July 7 for failing to appear at a show cause hearing on that day. She imposed a $1,200 cash bail. The judge said she would address the issue of finding the lawyer in civil contempt once he is present before the court.

In his motion to quash the bench warrant, Quichocho said he tendered the $1,200 bail money to the clerk's office on Thursday. He said he is off-island and would be out of the CNMI for about three months and unable to appear in person on the hearing date.

He said he has been off-island since June 10, 2014, for personal and medical reasons. He said he would be available via teleconference for the show-cause hearing.

Ming Yang Corp., through counsel Mark Scoggins, did not object to Quichocho's motion. Scoggins indicated they would not oppose vacating the show-cause order and closing the matter so long as the money deposited as bail is released to cover its legal fees.

Manglona agreed with Scoggins.

Last June 30, Manglona ordered Quichocho to show cause why he should not be held in civil contempt for refusing to pay sanctions for $1,200 in attorney's fees. The show cause hearing was set for July 7. Quichocho failed to appear at the hearing.

Scoggins stated that since the filing of Quichocho's motion for reconsideration, the latter had claimed to be traveling.

Manglona issued the $1,200 sanction order against Quichocho on June 16 for his late submission of his opposition to Ming Yang Corp.'s motion to dismiss a lawsuit. Part of the sanction included paying Ming Yang Corp.'s legal fees in preparing for a motion.

Manglona ordered Quichocho to pay the fees no later than June 25, 2014. On June 24, however, Quichocho filed a motion to reconsider Manglona's order. Manglona denied the motion and gave Quichocho until June 27 to pay. When Quichocho failed to pay the sanctions on June 27, Scoggins filed a petition for an order to show cause. Manglona granted the petition.

Quichocho served as counsel for William A. Tracy, who sued several businesses, including Ming Yang, for allegedly having facilities that are not accessible to persons with disabilities. Tracy was reportedly found dead last Feb.7. The case has since been dismissed.

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Kanoa Resort
Saipan

Maintenance Coordinator (1)
Qualifications: Requires three (3) years of satisfactory performance as a Maintenance Coordinator; or any combination of related education and experience in the assigned area; or up to four (4) years of college courses in civil engineering, construction management or related field. Must have the ability to read, write, analyze & interpret orally & written effectively; ability to interpret and administer contracts for construction, and/or operational services.

Lifeguard (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to swim and have an outgoing personality and the ability to motivate with enthusiasm. Proposed ideas or find ways to improve services, systems and/or procedures. Direct and lead activities for guests of all ages. Certified CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard. Must be able to work flexible schedule including holidays, weekends and nights.

Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of six (6) years experience in hotel maintenance plus 2 years in supervisory level. Able to supervise, manage and coordinate the activities of mechanics, installers and repairers. Good judgment, decision making skills, and time management skills. Prefer some technical courses. Must know how to read floor plan and electrical diagram. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Must be able to work flexible schedule including holidays, weekends and nights.

Electrician (3)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum of five (5) years work experience required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram, and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Landscaping Worker (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 to 3 years previous work experience. Cultivates and cares for ornamental plants and installs floral displays indoor or outdoor settings through performance of any combination of following duties as directed by supervisory personnel. Able to work a variable schedule on occasion including weekends.

Sous Chef (2)
Qualifications: High school diploma; a graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. Must have at least four (4) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Supervising-chef assistant Supervises and coordinates activities of cooks and other workers engaged in preparing and cooking foodstuffs. Assumes responsibility for kitchen in absence of EXECUTIVE CHEF. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

International Cook (2)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least three (3) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Must be able to prepare, season, and cook a wide range of international dishes such as soups, meats, vegetables, salads, entrees, and desserts in the Resort. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Baker (1)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Some previous work-related skill, knowledge or experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Demi Chef (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent, or postsecondary instruction from vocational schools. Minimum of four (4) years work experience as a Demi-Chef preferably in hotel. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards is essential. Supervise and coordinates activities of kitchen operation and personnel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Cafeteria Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or GED certificate. Little or no previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations. Must facilitate food service. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic/Technician (1)
Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Assistant Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of six (6) years experience in hotel maintenance plus 2 years in supervisory level. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Preferably some technical courses. Must know how to use Excel and Microsoft Word. Must know how to read floor plan and electrical diagram and understand centralized air-conditioning system. Adheres to OSHA safety standards that are applicable for the safe performance of job. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Powerhouse Mechanic (Power Plant) (1)
Qualifications: Require postsecondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges, or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or 2 to 4 years of experience. Perform routine maintenance or make repairs to mechanical, electrical, or electronic equipment in power plants. Willing to work flexible schedule on occasion, including weekends.

Pool Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High School graduate with at least two (2) years work experience as a Pool Attendant. Knowledgeable on some sports and in organizing group activities. Must be knowledgeable with the use of chemicals for the pool. Certified CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard. Willing to work flexible schedule on occasion, including weekends.

General Maintenance Worker/Repairer (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of two (2) years work experience as a Handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Income Auditor Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: A bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. Minimum of five (5) years progressive experience in night audit/income audit operations, preferably in a hotel. Examine and analyze accounting records to determine financial status of establishment and prepare financial reports concerning operating procedures. Must also have experience with inventories to include, but not limited to F&B, Dry goods and Housekeeping cleaning and guest supplies. Willing to work flexible schedule on occasion, including weekends.

Housekeeper (5)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum 6 months work experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to speak and write in English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Tailor/Dressmaker (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of Three (3) years work experience as a dressmaker preferably in a hotel. Must be able to think creatively. Is able to design, make draperies, repair or fit garments. Must have an interest in fashion, color and style. Must have ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Able to work a variable schedule on occasion including weekends.

Housekeeping Supervisor (4)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. A few months to one year of supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Must directly supervise and coordinate work activities of cleaning personnel in the hotel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

IT Tech Support Manager (1)
Qualifications: Any combination of education and training equivalent to possession of a bachelor's degree in computer science, information engineering, computer associates or other related areas. Must have at least five (5) years working experience. Experience in all areas of local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, implementation, and user support. Experience installing and supporting Microsoft server technologies. Working knowledge of local and wide area networks (LAN/WAN), Internet, e-mail systems, telecommunications and data communications, standard operating systems, software packages, and software. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Night Auditor (1)
Qualifications: College Diploma or Equivalent certificate, in a hotel or resort. Must have at least two (2) years experience in hotel internal auditing. Must be willing to work flexible night duty/graveyard schedule, weekends, holidays and extended work hours. Understanding of business processes and work flow design. Strong financial analytical background and must be knowledgeable on Microsoft office applications and other software are essential. Good communication and interpersonal skills are necessary. Also responsible in handling of company general funds. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy, adapt to changes in work environment, work as assignments and/or changes in priorities.

Guest Relations Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree in hospitality or hotel management. One to four years or supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Must be able to supervise and coordinate the activities of guest relations workers to make sure that guests on vacation or business travel have a pleasant experience, while also ensuring the establishment is run efficiently and profitably. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Assistant Manager, Room Reservation (1)
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Minimum of two continuous years experience in reservations, at supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Responsible for the supervision of all activities pertaining to Reservations Department in order to achieve the highest possible occupancy levels for the purpose of maximizing room revenues and profit. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays and weekends.

Wait Staff (7)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 6 months serving experience required or 6 months current hosting experience. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Food and Beverage Supervisor (3)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent or training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree. Minimum two (2) years work experience as F&B supervisor preferably in a hotel. Must be able to directly supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in preparing and serving. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. Strong customer service skills and people oriented.

Guest Services Agent (3)
Qualifications: Must have minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for service and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. High School diploma or GED certificate. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have multitasking skills, be detailed-oriented, and be able to solve problems in order to effectively deal with internal and external customers.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than July 16, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Ex-cop Richards tests positive for 'ice' use

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Florencio Q. Richards, a former police officer on federal probation after serving a 24-month prison term for distributing methamphetamine or "ice," tested positive for the drug again.

According to U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola, when confronted with the test results, Richards admitted that he used the drug on June 1, 2014.

In his report to the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week, Arriola said that Richards has not complied with the conditions of his supervision when he used "ice" on May 31 and June 1, 2014.

Richards also failed to report for drug testing on May 30 and 31, and June 3, 2014, Arriola said.

The former police officer also failed to report for a counseling session on June 3, 2014, Arriola said.

Arriola said he visited Richards at his home on June 4, 2014, to conduct a random drug test.

Before submitting to the test, Richards admitted in writing that he used "ice" in the evening of May 31, 2014 and the morning of June 1, 2014.

Arriola said that on June 7, 2014, Richards tested presumptive positive for "ice" while submitting to a random drug test.

He said when questioned about the test results, Richards admitted using drugs on June 1, 2014.

Arriola said defendant's violations were committed prior to his placement on the Location Monitoring Program. Richards began his enrollment in the monitoring program last June 10.

Arriola said Richards was given a stern warning about the consequences of continued noncompliance and that the next occurrence of a positive drug test will result in a request for court action.

Arriola said Richards will continue to be monitored closely and any further violations will be reported to the court.

Richards is currently undergoing substance abuse treatment and testing.

On June 14, 2013, the federal court modified the supervised conditions to include three months of home detention under the location monitoring program after Richards admitted to drug use on three separate occasions.

Last Jan. 30, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona revoked Richards' supervised release and sent him to three months in prison with credit for time served, for using "ice" again. After serving the three-month sentence, Richards was placed on 33 months of supervised release.

Manglona told the defendant that she hopes to see him return as a productive member of the community.

Richards has been on three years of supervised probation since Feb. 20, 2013, after he served a 12-month prison term for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice," distribution of "ice," and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

In August 2011, the federal court imposed a 24-month prison term on Richards for distributing "ice" while he was still an active officer.

USP4GG urges Pinoys to join National Day of Action

The US Pinoys for Good Governance is urging all Filipinos in the CNMI and Guam to join the National Day of Action today, July 15, to call on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and President Barack Obama to grant the Temporary Protected Status designation for the Philippines.

" This is the last TPS barrage that we will do," said Loida Nicolas Lewis, national chair of the US Pinoys for Good Governance. " We are opening up a new avenue of remittances to the Philippines because those granted Temporary Protected Status will be given work authorization."

" I encourage all Filipinos in the CNMI and Guam to show and express your support for the approval of TPS by calling the Department of Homeland Security and the White House," said Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of USP4GG Marianas chapter for CNMI and Guam.

Lewis and Lamkin are urging Filipinos in the CNMI and Guam to call the Department of Homeland Security comment line at 1-202-282-8495 and the White House comment line at 1-202-456-1111 on July 15 with the following message: "Temporary Protected Status for the Philippines must be designated. I urge the Department of Homeland Security (if calling DHS) President Obama (if calling The White House) that full TPS be designated for the Philippines. My name is (say your name) from (say city and state). Thank you!"

If full Temporary Protected Status is approved for the Philippines, all Filipinos in the United States, the CNMI, and Guam will be able to apply. However, if only partial TPS is granted, only Filipinos from areas in the Philippines devastated by Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda will be qualified to apply provided the requirements are met.

Lamkin said that USP4GG Marianas chapter will be providing free calls and assistance to Filipinos at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe, Saipan, today, July 15, from 4pm to 7pm.

Filipinos in the CNMI are also advised to be careful of individuals and agencies who are collecting fees to process TPS or to legalize them because TPS has not been approved yet. ***(USP4GG)***

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Accounting and Circulations Manager
College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management and newspaper circulation experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management and newspaper circulation activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage a work team and independent contractors. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. CPA not required.

Associate Editor
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Coordinator
Associates degree with a minimum of 2 years progressively responsible work experience. Requirements include professional customer service and good driving skills. Must be able to routinely lift and move bundles of newspapers up to 50 lbs.

Graphic Designer (3)
Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

Managing Editor
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course. At least 8 years progressive journalism and newspaper management experience with a strong story evaluation and production background. Must have rigorous proofreading skills and able to meet tight deadlines. Knows how to use InDesign or Quark Express and must be adept in the various technical aspects of newspaper publishing.

Reporter (3)
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, July 25, 2014.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to the best wife, mother, and grandmother, Beverly Camacho! May you enjoy your day and much more blessings to come from your kids and most especially from Shalei Terrie and Kai'Po Francisco! We love you and remember, you are the best in the east to the west to the north & south of the island!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pension obligation bond plan shelved for now

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said Friday that the plan to float a multimillion pension obligation bond is shelved or on hold for now, and will remain as a "last resort," especially now that the process of awarding a license to exclusively develop a minimum $2 billion integrated casino resort on Saipan is moving forward.

Inos reiterated that floating a pension obligation bond entails "huge interest expense" in addition to the payment of the principal amount.

Inos

"Not only will we expect a huge interest expense, the whole principal would have to be repaid and so it's going to be the future generations that will be [paying] that. So if we can avoid it, I say, let's put the pension obligation bond project on the shelf for now," he said in an interview after signing into law a bill that clarifies ambiguities in the Saipan casino law.

Inos said with the casino option moving forward, the CNMI may not even need to float a pension obligation bond.

A 2013 law authorizes the government to float up to $200 million in bonds to address the looming exhaustion of the retirement program's funds by 2019. But since that law's passage, casino operation on Saipan has been legalized, although a license has yet to be awarded.

The Inos administration, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Development Authority, had targeted to float bonds of $60 million, $80 million, or $120 million. The POB Act was later amended to allow the use of gross receipt taxes to repay the bonds.

Unlike revenue bonds, POBs are taxable and command higher interest rates. CDA has confirmed that it is aiming for a higher credit rating so the proposed POB float will get a lower interest rate.

SILC to hold Tinian outreach on July 19-20

The CNMI Statewide Independent Living Council, led by chair Consolacion "Connie" Atalig, will conduct outreach on Tinian at the Kammer Beach Pavilion on July 19-20, from 10am to 2pm.

The goal of this outreach, consistent with the 2014-2016 State Plan for Independent Living, is to increase the community's level of awareness of the history and philosophy of independent living as well as to promote individual and systems advocacy.

Individuals from Tinian who may be interested in serving as a member on the SILC when a vacancy becomes available may take this opportunity to learn from Atalig, Estella Cabaobas, Thomas Thornburgh, and Belta Pangelinan (SILC Tinian representative) about the mission of SILC, duties/responsibilities of members, ideal characteristics of potential members, etc.

If you have any questions regarding the SILC's Tinian outreach activity, contact Atalig at 286-5480 or Pangelinan at 433-7325.

For other general questions about the CNMI SILC, contact the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation at Ph: (670) 322-6537/8; TTY: (670) 322-6449; fax: (670) 322-6536; email: nmidir@ovrgov.net; or P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950. ***(OVR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Rota presentation on Economic Model today

The CNMI Department of Commerce will be hosting a round of public presentations to advise the general public on the final development of the CNMI's Economic Model. The CNMI Department of Commerce will host the presentation on Rota today, July 15, 2014, at 6pm at the Rota Mayor's Office on Rota. Video-teleconference will be available at the NMC campus located on Tinian. For more information, contact Mark Rabauliman of the Registrar of Corporations at ta.elep@commerce.gov or call (670) 664-3002. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Red Cross training schedule

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

- Tues., July 15, at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED
- Tues., July 15, at 6pm: Adult First Aid/CPR/AED (session 1 of 2)
- Wed., July 16, at 6pm: First Aid

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Course fees apply. To register or for more information on other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. ***(ARC)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on July 24

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2014, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

CCA board meeting on July 22

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 22, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

2014 CariPac Summer Internship Program

The Northern Marianas College—Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services is inviting incoming junior and senior high school students to apply for the 2014 CariPac Summer Internship Program on Saipan and Tinian. The program starts July 28 and ends on Aug. 22. The deadline for submitting applications is July 11, 2014, at 4:30pm. For more information call 237-6844 or 6855. Applications can be picked up at the CREES Administrative Offices on Saipan and Tinian or downloaded from www.crees.org. ***(NMC)***

Written drivers exams at UOG reset for July 16

The written drivers examinations originally scheduled for Friday afternoon, July 11, at the University of Guam, have been rescheduled for Wednesday afternoon, July 16. Test takers are advised to arrive at their originally scheduled examination time. ***(PR)***

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful sales record. Ideally with an Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing plus experience in F&B/restaurant operations and menu preparation. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese or Korean language will be an advantage. Must have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

ACCOUNTANT

BA in Accounting and a minimum of 3 years experience is required, including preparation of financial statements, processing accounts receivables & payables and other general accounting procedures. Must possess work-related skills, have knowledge & experience in purchasing, inventory control and bank reconciliation. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word, Outlook and ACCPAC/Sage or similar accounting system. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants must submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by July 16, 2014. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment.
Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

COSMOS DISTRIBUTING CO. (SPN) LTD.
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the position of:

Sales Representatives (2)
Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing or Accounting with minimum of 3 years experience in sales. Proven skills in product marketing and providing excellent customer service are required. Must be proficient in MS Excel and Word for preparation of reports and Outlook for email. Must provide for his/her own reliable transportation for out-of-office work activities and must also be able to meet monthly sales targets. Applicant needs to be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries are advantage. Available to work on evenings, holidays, weekends.

Sales Representatives – Hospitality Industry and Lubricants
A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful sales record. Preferably with Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing. Sales experience with hotel, F&B, and restaurants together with knowledge of their inventory and supply operations an advantage. Knowledge of petroleum lubricants is a plus. Proven good tract records in product marketing and excellent customer service are required. Must be proficient in MS Excel and Word for preparation of report and Outlook for email. Must provide for his/her own reliable transportation for out-of-office work activities and must also be able to meet monthly sales targets. Applicant needs to be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries are advantage. Available to work on evenings, holidays, weekends.

Business Operations Manager
Graduate of 4-year Business or Accounting course and at least 6 years of progressive management experience in wholesaling and product distribution. Minimum of 5 years general management experience in warehouse, sales, purchasing and distribution activities. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, MAS90/Sage Accounting Software and Microsoft software. Must have a solid track record in meeting business objective.

Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.
Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experiences.
For applications to be considered, they should be sent to
hrd@cosmosdistributing.com
Not later than July 25, 2014

We are Equal Opportunity Employer

Century Insurance Company, Ltd.
is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Accounting Supervisor
A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and/or Finance from an accredited college or university with minimum of 3 years work experience in supervisory level, supervising at least 2 associates. CPA board passer and with experience in Property & Casualty Insurance accounting operations is an advantage. Knowledgeable in SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Background in General Insurance Information System (GENIISYS) is a plus. Proficient in analyzing financial statements and must have knowledge in external regulatory reporting requirements. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge in Excel is a must.

Claims Officer
College graduate with a Bachelor's Degree preferably in Business Management with 10 years experience in a non-life insurance company particularly in the Claims Department. Must be knowledgeable in automotive, marine, casualty, worker's compensation, and property damage adjusting and estimation. Responsible for the evaluation, monitoring and adjustment of claims in accordance with the company practices and procedures. Must also be knowledgeable on reinsurance and have the ability to interpret statistical information for reinsurance purposes. Must have excellent customer service skills, time management, written and oral communication skills. Must be computer literate and proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs.

General Manager
Bachelor's Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, at least 5 years of that as a general or operations manager in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing technical underwriting including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves undertaking of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

System Analyst
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance database and program – GENIISYS and an in-depth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Underwriting and Claims Supervisor
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree plus 5 years of work experience in insurance business particularly in claims, underwriting, and reinsurance. Must also have knowledge, skills and ability to analyze and manipulate enterprise risk management. Must possess above average communication skills, a working knowledge of MS Word and Excel and the insurance software GENIISYS. Must be willing to take cross-functional assignments and adapt to changes necessary for the effective functioning of the organization's business operations.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, July 24, 2014.

Century Insurance Company, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Century Hotel
is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic (1)
Qualification: Requires post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration , or an associate's degree. Completion of apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Guest Relations Agent (1)
Qualification: High School diploma or equivalent, two (2) years experience in providing quality customer and personal service. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for service and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. Multi-tasking skills, detail oriented and effective problem solving are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays and weekends and nights.

General Maintenance Worker (1)
Qualification: Minimum of 2 years work experience as a handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with a central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid CNMI driver's license is required. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. High School diploma or equivalent.

Guest Relations Senior Supervisor (1)
Qualification: High School diploma or equivalent training in vocational schools , related on-the-job experience or an associate's degree in hospitality or hotel management. 2 years experience in supervisory/managerial capacity in a high volume hotel is preferred. Must be able to supervise, train and coordinate all activities of the front desk ensuring the establishment is run effectively and profitably.

Housekeeping Cleaner (1)
Qualification: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of 6 months work experience in a hotel is preferred. Able to speak and write English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects.

Interested applicants may obtain and submit application form from Fiesta Resort & Spa's security office located at the South Wing of the Resort.
To be considered, all applications must be submitted no later than July 18, 2014.
Background check and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Hotel is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Guam's main thoroughfare reopened after renovation

U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

Representatives from the military and local communities cut the ceremonial ribbon for the Route 1/8 Intersection and Agana Bridge Reconstruction Projects in Hagatna, Guam on July 9.

By JOANNA DELFIN
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HAGATNA, Guam—Representatives from the U.S. Navy joined members of the Guam community to officially open the island's reconstructed main thoroughfare during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Hagatna on July 9.

The $16.4-million project, which was 100-percent federally funded, was the result of a 2008 study of Guam's specific routes that would be utilized during the Marine Corps relocation from Okinawa to Guam.

"Though the buildup has not yet begun in earnest, the bridge and the intersection are now complete," said Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas. "It's truly a worthwhile investment that will not only benefit those who will be traveling along these roads today and in the near future, but for generations to come. It's better for the people of Guam, it's better for the infrastructure of Guam and it's better for the military to conduct the mission that we need to do here in Guam."

Infrastructure improvements included the removal and replacement of the six-lane bridge over the Agana River in the capital city of Hagatna and the addition of new lanes linking the two roads for motorists traversing to the southern end of the island.

"This was the Department of Defense's work on outside-the-fence contracts," said Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo. "I look forward to finally the Marines coming back and I look forward to Guam being a host towards the military forces of the United States to keep peace in this part of the world."

The original bridge was constructed by Seabees from the 25th Naval Construction Battalion following World War II in 1945 and served as an important component of Guam's main highway for 69 years.

"I think it's only fitting and appropriate that the Navy and the Department of Defense is involved as we redo this project and make it bigger, better, stronger and faster," Payne said.

He added that completed, ongoing, and future projects pertaining to the military buildup is a display of the continued partnership between the local and military communities.

"This is a perfect example of the military working with Guam to make it better for both of us," Payne said. "As we look to the future, as we rebalance to the Pacific and look at the Marine Corps' move, the Department of Defense remains committed to improving the quality of life for all residents of Guam and today's ceremony is a testament of that commitment."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A young girl has her picture taken with a man costumed as Captain America as part of the celebration of the 4th of July at the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American citizens, dignitaries, and other distinguished guests join the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia to mark the 238th birthday of the United States of America on July 4, 2014.

US Embassy Kolonia brings a piece of America to the FSM

The U.S. Embassy in Kolonia marked the 238th birthday of the United States of America with a large celebration, welcoming nearly 400 American citizens, dignitaries, and other distinguished guests. The celebration started with 70 students from the Talent Search Program surprising the crowd with a rendition of America the Beautiful, followed by an a cappella performance of the FSM and U.S. national anthems by the Santos Vocal Band.

Ambassador Dorothea-Maria Rosen provided remarks in which she discussed the challenges of democracy by saying that all parties must learn the art of compromise in order to reach an agreement that all can live by. Additionally she congratulated the FSM government for their progress in fighting Trafficking in Persons, highlighting the improvements made this year, which included prosecuting their first TIP case.

"The current measles outbreak in the FSM has highlighted the cooperation between the US and FSM when confronting concerns impacting us all," she said. "The U.S. Center for Disease Control has been working with local health officials since shortly after we were advised of the outbreak and within two weeks over 21,000 individuals were inoculated against the measles."

FSM Vice President Alik L. Alik also provided remarks in which he highlighted the special and unique relationship of the United States and FSM. He also discussed the combined effort the two countries are making to meet the challenges of 2023.

Following the formal ceremony, the U.S. Embassy staff hosted an American-style lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs, and vegi-burgers.

Peace Corps volunteers and trainees painted children's faces and sang a combination of folk and traditional American songs. The day culminated with the appearance of Captain America, who proved to be popular for photos taken with many members of the audience. ***(PR)***

Anybody home? Pacific island of Niue hit by exodus

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
In this Wednesday, June 4, 2014 photo, Roy Pavihi uses a planer to shape a canoe in Avatele, Niue. Pavihi, 26, is part of a youth group that's learning to make canoes, using traditional tools like chisels and modern ones like electric planers.

ALOFI, Niue (AP)—It was a school once, but there are no children here anymore. The lonely building on this remote Pacific island now contains only a punching bag that someone has strung from the classroom rafters, and a note scrawled on the chalkboard in Niuean: "Keep this place clean," it says, "so it stays beautiful."

While much of the world worries about how it will accommodate rapidly growing populations, some islands in the Pacific face the opposite dilemma: how to stop everybody from leaving.

The population decline on Niue, a lush coral atoll about the size of Baltimore, has been steady and relentless. In the 1960s, there were more than 5,000 people living here; today, there are fewer than 1,600. Fifteen times as many Niueans, some 24,000, now live across the ocean in New Zealand, 2,400 kilometers (1,500 miles) away.

The stories, songs and language that developed into the Niuean culture over more than 1,000 years are at risk of vanishing.

Speedo Hetutu, 54, attended the old school in the town of Avatele before it was abandoned and later used for workouts. There used to be six primary schools on the island; now there is only one. Other buildings where people used to work, pray or live now sit empty and in disrepair.

"People wanted to go away to look for a better life," Hetutu says. "People are still searching."

Other Pacific islands face similar struggles. The CIA estimates the population of the Cook Islands is declining by 3 percent per year, a rate second only to war-torn Syria.

Tokelau and American Samoa are also losing significant numbers of people. Even on archipelagos like Samoa and Tonga where the population is steady, people are abandoning the outer islands and moving to the main towns, where they can find better jobs, education and health care.

The exodus from Niue has been particularly acute because of its connection with New Zealand. Niue is self-governing but in free association with its wealthier neighbor to the south, and Niueans are automatically New Zealand citizens.

While that relationship has lured away thousands of young Niueans, it has also paid the bills for those who have remained. New Zealand has helped establish a $44 million trust fund and gives annual aid that amounts to about $10,000 per resident, helping fund the government work that accounts for most of the island's jobs. Some Niueans living abroad send back remittances.

Many of those who left had goals that were simply too big for the island. Professor John Connell, a South Pacific expert at the University of Sydney, recalls speaking with a nurse who specialized in neonatal care and had returned for her father's funeral.

"There was no point in her being in Niue," Connell says. "She could only be there if she was prepared to lose her high-powered skills, and she didn't want to do that."

Niueans see New Zealand as a land filled with opportunity, says the Rev. Falkland Liuvaie, 52, a Presbyterian minister who moved to its capital, Wellington, seven years ago.

He delivers a weekly sermon in both Niuean and English which he says gives many expats their only opportunity to listen to their language. He says for the first few years he gave his services only in Niuean, until he realized many people had difficulty understanding him.

The oral traditions that were once strong on the island are in danger of disappearing, he says. He remembers as a young boy going into his grandfather's bedroom at 5 in the morning, before he went to work, to hear him tell stories about fishing and working in the bush.

"It's really hard. The more you stay away from home, the more you embrace other cultures, especially the Western culture," he says. "There's nothing much you can do about it."

Yet on Niue there is a sense of optimism, a belief the exodus might finally be halting. That's thanks to more tourism money coming in and a renewed sense of national pride.

Roy Pavihi, 26, is part of a youth group that's learning to make canoes, using traditional tools like chisels and modern ones like electric planers. He works from a building near the old Avatele school, where it seems the roosters never stop crowing. He says he thinks the project is encouraging people to stay.

"We need to follow the skills of our forefathers," he says. "Our village was renowned for fishing and canoes."

It's a way to keep the old knowledge alive, and comes with a bonus: catches of wahoo, tuna and mackerel for those who master the vessels.

One person who was never tempted to leave is Maihetoe Hekau. At 73, she remembers when families had little or no paid work, and instead tended their plantations, raising taro, tapioca and bananas.

A Niuean proverb has it that if you keep your bush knife sharp—or stay motivated—you will clear yourself a bigger plantation.

Although she attended high school in New Zealand, Hekau says she always loved the relaxed lifestyle on Niue, and figured it was the best place to raise a big family.

How big? She laughs, embarrassed to say. More than 10? Yes, she says, more than 10.

These days, she says, she uses a tablet computer to keep in touch with her children, most of whom live on the island. In 2003, Niue became the first country to offer all residents free Wi-Fi, one of several technological upgrades that islanders say make the isolation easier to cope with.

New Zealand is gradually reducing its aid to Niue, arguing that its contributions to the trust fund and its investments in tourism are helping the country become more self-sufficient.

This year, most Niuean government workers had their five-day work weeks reduced to four days at the same pay. The government says it helps people spend more time in their communities, while critics say it was because the budget is stretched and there was no money for promised raises.

Niue Premier Toke Talagi remains bullish on his country's future.

"I know that some people tend to look at us and say, 'Well, you're not viable,'" he says. "You need to define exactly what you mean by that. We were viable before anybody else came here. We were independent before anybody else came here."

"Our task at the present moment is to use tourism to try to create opportunities so that people in New Zealand, or anywhere around the world that Niueans are living, will consider Niue again as a place for them to come back and live," he says.

Niue government figures indicate about 7,000 people visited the island last year, double the number from six years earlier. Air New Zealand this year scheduled extra flights during the Southern Hemisphere winter tourist season.

Tourism Director Vanessa Marsh says Niue attracts diverse groups from wedding parties to ham radio enthusiasts, who find the isolation reduces signal interference. Niue's clear waters attract divers and sport fishermen.

Connell remains skeptical about the power of tourism to reverse Niue's population loss. He says the island's elevated, rocky coastline means it lacks the sandy beaches many holidaymakers seek. He says the tourists he met there tended to be people sailing the world, hardy backpackers or those trying to tick off 150 countries from their "bucket list."

Mark Blumsky, a former New Zealand businessman and politician who runs several tourism-related enterprises, is more optimistic. He moved to the island permanently after marrying a woman he met during a diplomatic posting there.

He says the lifestyle is remarkable. Take the jailhouse, located on one side of the golf course. The last inmate, in trouble for arson, spent his time tending the golf greens and improving his handicap before being released a year or two back, Blumsky says.

He says there are stunning coastal walks, opportunities to see humpback whales and plenty of swimming holes.

It would be unusual, but not unprecedented, for an island's population to simply pack up and leave. Connell says one of the more famous cases was St. Kilda, off the west coast of Scotland, where in 1930 the last 36 islanders requested evacuation to the Scottish mainland.

He notes there are examples of places that have survived despite predictions they would not, including the Pitcairn Islands, home to about 50 people.

"It's far too early to write off Niue," Connell says. "But it has to be at risk."

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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-5263 (H) and 286-4587 (Cell)

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF **VICENTE E. BELIBEI** An Incompetent	)	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0299
By **MARIA ASUNCION AGUILA BELIBEI** Petitioner	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship of the above-named by **Maria Asuncion Aguila Belibei**, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on the 31st day of July, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CNMI HEAD START PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone.: (670) 664-3751/68 • Fax: (670) 664-3760

Head Start Policy Council
Special Meeting

Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Special Meeting on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 1:30p.m., Oleai Head Start Resource Center, Oleai, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Quorum
   4. Adoption of Agenda
II. Public Comments
III. New Business
   1. Action Items
      a. Approval of SY 14-15 Request for Transportation Waiver
      b. Approval of One Time Emergency Health & Safety Grant Application
      c. Revised Organizational Chart
IV. Miscellaneous Matters
V. Executive Session
VI. Next Meeting
VII. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Mrs. Candace Q. Celis at (670) 664-3761 or email address at candace.celis@cnmipss.org.

/s/ Roy Ada
Chairperson

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Border crisis: Obama's request can't be dismissed

President Barack Obama has gone from being the deporter-in-chief to being held politically responsible for a flood of immigrants crossing the nation's southern border. But this is more than politics—it is a real humanitarian crisis.

Illegal immigrants have long crossed the Mexican border, but never like this. By the thousands, children are coming from Central America—especially Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala—unaccompanied by their parents. It is an exodus unparalleled in recent history, recalling the harrowing stories of the so-called Children's Crusade said to have drawn youngsters to the Holy Land 800 years ago.

Why this is occurring now is not altogether clear. It could be a reaction to the decision two years ago by the Obama administration to allow immigrants who came as children to stay without fear of deportation. But it could also be a desperate bet made by parents who figure that an immigration bill will eventually be passed and that their children, even though they arrive now, will get a chance at a better life.

Whatever the cause, it has overwhelmed those charged with guarding the nation's borders and has led to scenes of angry Americans barring the way to immigrant children, a reaction that shames the nation's humanitarian conscience. Mr. Obama's response earlier this week was to ask Congress for $3.7 billion to deal with the influx.

Republicans (and some fearful Democrats) are refusing to give the request serious consideration. They believe a crisis is unfolding, but they don't trust Mr. Obama and they resist giving him a blank check.

Not exactly blank. The money would go to building more detention centers, adding immigration judges, beefing up border patrols and aerial surveillance, the very things needed to protect the borders and take care of the children prior to processing. Instead, congressional gridlock and dysfunction rule.

Mr. Obama needs to be more explicit in saying these children will be returned to their homes. But Republicans can't have it both ways. They can't savage Mr. Obama for doing nothing and then argue against him when he acts. The congressional critics have to decide: Do they want to be part of the solution or part of the problem?

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Pakistani teenager still disrespected in homeland

Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani teenager deservedly named the 2014 recipient of the Liberty Medal by the National Constitution Center last week, should be an inspiration for girls and women worldwide, having survived a 2012 attack by a Taliban gunman to continue her advocacy for girls' education rights.

Even as Malala accumulates accolades in the West, however, her endeavors remain controversial in Pakistan. Ironically, many of her own people have criticized her and called her an American agent.

Her popular book, "I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban," published last year, has been banned in Pakistan's private schools on the grounds that it's disrespectful of Islam. Malala's achievements at such a tender age—she won Pakistan's National

See PAKISTANI on Next Page

ATTENTION! GERMANY'S CAPTURED OUR SPY! WE MUST GET WORD TO THE TOP!
NEWS
GERMANS ARREST U.S. SPY
KEVIN SIERS CHARLOTTE OBSERVER ©2014

Kristo Rai @ FIFA

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

A word is set loose in human history that excuses no one from walking the life gifted one to live. *Christo Roi* reigns supreme. That many refuse to live the one, unique, unrepeatable life they already have, ignoring that there was never one like them before, and no one like them will ever come again, leaves a lot of whining lives wasted in sidelines of history.

My daughter has a sign in her kitchen: "$5 charge for whining." Being a Christo is a chosen role, rather than a whine of a victim ran over by circumstances (Roman rule) or mean-spirited external forces (scribes and Pharisees). My mantra: "The situation is never a person's contradiction; one's relationship to it, in fact, defines one's personal circumstance!" We may not be able to manage, let alone control, our situation, but we sure have the option on how to relate to it.

The Christ-the-King notion has been turned into a widespread cult on the butt-full Jesus idolatry terrain rather than the supremacy of the Christ-word and Christ-role as a practical option of our lives. The danger is in reducing the Christ into a cognitive exercise, a unit of belief and "faith" *sans* grounding in existential flesh and blood. Grounding a historical image propagated by theological reflection, be it from Augustine or Aquinas, Luther or Kierkegaard, cannot replace the bloody flesh on the historical barbwires of reality on one's time.

Jesus the Christ is the exemplar par excellence in my tradition, but to be His disciple in practice means that the Jesus Christ of 2,000 years ago takes on my likeness and my name is tagged on wrestling of the terror of death and the triumphal marquee of the emptied tomb! The Jesus of history fades and my historical reality emerges.

I do not long for a journey to Palestine of old, nor wish a devotional visit to Salman's *Head of Christ*. In the last three weeks, secular me stared daily at the aerial view of the statue of the Christ the Redeemer above Rio in Brazil, a figure I once saw in 1980 on a trek to South America.

Today, participants to the World Cup of FIFA *(Fédération Internationale de Football Association)* discover that a team excels more when its passionate kick-and-run supersedes its mature but calculating professional credential. Germany lumped host Brazil while Argentina shoved Netherlands aside in a free kick shoot-out after a scoreless time play.

Cristo Rei in Rio begs the question. What is the Kristo Rai in our lives? Put another way, what is the *summum bonum,* the highest good in your life? The answer is a choice, not an automatic inheritance from heritage or academic expertise.

New Canadian friend Alex thinks that all Canada wants from its young is to be good at hockey. My grandchildren this summer play soccer and baseball; two of them are ambidextrous so they can hit and kick right and left, an ability of advantage when playing the games. At their tender age, they dream of being professional players all their lives.

Family relations reign supreme to many so we treasure the promise of clan, shield the family name from tarnish, and develop a competitive edge to ensure high social standing. Being on top of standardized tests, in academia or at the workplace, is a premium for our children on our guard. We judge a person by commercial values; earning capacity is nurtured and guarded. Business schools tout the virtues of "Looking after No. 1".

Where leadership indicates a position in a pecking order, being an authority or an elected official is cherished. Sports and athletics hone the senses, command the muscular and skeletal eptitude that gets instincts to the height of animal survival all the way to inescapable hormonal charm. Add intuition and we move into the gracious affirmation of sensitive and strategic maneuvering. Virtues labeled as "love and compassion" are often used to describe attainment in this field. We obsess for adulation, to be liked and be popular.

Managing language and precision in numbers adds the gift of intellect into the personality stew. We converse with the wisdom of tradition and annotate the literary leavings of the learned, then dialogue with the voices that command assent among the educated. Today, it is the adoration of the meta-brain that allows for tenure and security in intellectual circles. Expertise loquaciously clothed qualifies, certainty confidently expressed secures.

The gifts of instinct, the refinement of intuition, and the sophistication of intellect is nothing if it does not translate into the efficacy of practical intentions. Living effectively demands a comprehensive mind, a strategic heart, a capable body and a resolute will. Viewing one's unique, unrepeatable self from those four portals lead to the highest good of the Cristo Rai role.

The FIFA of Brazil shows boldly its *Cristo Rei* image displayed on the hill! Soccer players from 32 countries left their marks on the field. Argentina's Lionel Messi could not mess up *das teamarbeit* enough that Mario Gotze's goal on the 113 minute of play finally got Germany their Cup.

For us, like everyone else, to be human is to decide roles 7/24. Decide. Alleluia!

Mapau ñaihon i fette na maipe

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Esta pipinu` i fette na maipen somnag ni pumalo`pu` hit guine gi alacha. Guiya este na biahe `nai mas hihot i atdau halom gi tanu` segun infotmasion man-sai`antes (scientist). Poresu na inipus minaipeña i ininan atdau. Mauleg sa` ha rega hit pinedoñg uchan dispues.

Finalagon tiempu gi fina` mattiru mafatu kada sisienta años. Repara sa` todu man-hanau papa` deste ekonomia yan fuetsan moneda. Tat ti finigu` papa` gi pisun miserapble. Esta mananayuyot-yu` na u danche i fondu ya u tutuhon bumirague` hulu`. Hana` chatsagan ñaihonyu` lokue` pot kikini` na mattiempu gi ti manbrabu na tautau-ta siha.

Kasse esta i haguhan pinadese ha tutuhon numa`lu tatte gi sagaña. Lau tinaka` tiempu estake u fattu gi lugatña. Mientras tantu, sige difirientes modun pinadese yan chinatsaga maliñgu adumididi`. Klaru na sumen te`ug na chinatsaga ha chalapon gi tautau siha. Tafan man-gagau ayudu na u lachadeg maliñgu gi santatte este na mattiempu.

Gi halom chubasku

Hu guife na mau`udai-yu` gi galaide ni tinituhune yinilulug man-dañkulon lañgat gi halom chubasku. Sige i kapitan has esgaihon adumididi` mas hihot yan i tanu` gi kantun kantit dañgw` galaide` mame. Era ha kekeli`e ininan kandet gi hegsu` ni mau`usa ni kapitan siha gi halom te`ug na chubasku pot para u tutuhon kareran halom gi puettu.

Sige ham umadiñgan hafa hana` sesetbe `an pueñge gi halom mattiempu `nai maliñgu i putionsiha gi lañget. Ilegña na hana setbe pañgpañg mañglu` yan finalagon kurente estake kayada ya siña ha lagabista posision putionsiha gi chagu`. Gi ha`ane man-gaige i pajaru kumu señat na gaige gi oriya un` tanu`. Sige ha akanteha karereña estake ha soda` i safu na chalan i puettu.

Kulan hita mismu ta hala halom finaposta, tiniñgo`ta yan hinasota para ta lagnos maisa hit ginen maseha haf` na chinatsaga. Ti siña na para ta sotta galaide`ta na u lailai gi kaprichoña gi halom taduñg na tasi. Ta pasensiaye sa` siempre ta danche tatte chalan-ta kumu hita mismu kapitan ennau na galaide`.

Tamales Niyog

Gi 1974 `nai hu akompañia i Atomic Energy Commission para Rongelap, Utirik yan Bikini giya Marshalls, hu li`e humidde na agu`on isla gi hechuran tamales niyog. Ayu pot primet biahe `nai hu tuñgu na gai asientu lokue` i niyog.

I mefe`na na dos islas, kuatro sientos miyas ginen iya Kwajelein `nai gaige lugat militat. `An hokog mantension, pues debi u fan man-nañgga estake mattu i batku ni humahalom kada tres mesis. Mientras mafattu, i tautau ma`usune man-mananom yan pinegsai deste manog, chiba, babue yan guihan. Bastara ke tautau isla, kontodu tuban lahe guaha para usun niha.

Mattu gi kabales na linala` isla gi todu kinalamten. Todu siña mafa` salape` timahñau lau nos pot nesessidat mantension. Gi minachom atdau, sessu man-daña gi fina` seremoñas, kanta yan baila tradision niha. `Nai pumattisipau-yu` umega`, hana` hassuyu` tatte i matotnen fugera gi kanton unai Lali Fo` `nai duru lokue` finana`guen kanta yan baila.

Hu diñgu ayu siha na islas gi hilu` mesgu na lagohu satton na tinayuyot na u fan felis hinanau niha. I finatoghu primet yan uttimu. Puede ha` mohon ha huñgog-yu` i Saina gi finaisenhu pot ayu siha na mañeluta.

■■■

Guiya ayu siha na tautague i pumadese pinedoñg binenon Atomic Bomb ni mana pagpag gi mediu 1944 gi fihon tanu` niha. Mampos tatkilu` i probleman niha pot thyroid na lamegai dispues nina` fan dimalas kanset. Esta pa`gu tihu komprerende haf` na manmachogue los prohimos taiguihe lau man-tautau.

■■■

Gi papa` pulan, matachoñg-yu` gi simientenyun niha sige manayuyot. Todu i man-gaige guihe man-matai kanset entre lasas, to`lañg halom esta i sanhalom niha. Dispues hu soda` na i binenon potbus Atomic Bomb tinaka` mit años estake para u faliñgu fottilisaña. Ai na che`chu` tinailaye kulan mohon pinilakes cha`ka ni man-mapega kumu mostran haf` dañuña potbus Atomic Bomb. Repara sa` chagu` yan America `nai mapega este na estudiun destrosiu.

I felis na kinalamten tautau isla ni huli`e gi sanhiyuñg siha na islas giya Marshalls taiguihe antes lokue` guine gi tano`ta. Metgot na kuttura sensian ina`ayuda piot gi che`chu` komunida. Todu lokue` dañkulu na suette man-a`ana`e tautau-ta gi katkuet tiempu. Mampos na`magof ayu na kustumbren natibu i machuchuda` minagof yan sinsiyu na gineftau.

■■■

Lamegai siha man-mauleg na kustumbre sige adumididi` manmaliñgu. Kontodu hila` nana-ta mapoñgli gi halom kuattru lugan eskuela. Dispues de man-madispacha i famaguon, mana`lu tatte gi finu` Eñglis kumu primera liñguahen niha. Siempre u faliñgu sin ditension usun finu` Chamorro. Este na karera kasse ti u mahñau!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please respect our candidates' properties

The time is here again when we have to exercise our right to vote comes November 2014 in our democratic society. There are a lot of preparations for an individual to make himself/herself known that he/she is seeking for public office such as home visitation, billboards, advertisements in newspapers and radio stations, etc. All these require money and time to make them happen. Those individuals seeking public offices have the interest to serve the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in those specific positions. We admire and respect their decisions.

An example of an individual's political publicity is billboards on trailers. This type of advertising is flexible and movable. It can be parked at different intervals all around Saipan. Voters will constantly know who the candidates are and what public offices they are seeking.

It was so sad of an incident that happened this weekend of July 12. The billboard trailers of the Democratic Party candidates were vandalized while parked along the Tun Herman Pan Road going to the airport. The destructions are as follows:

1. The trailer for the candidate for governor, Edward Masga DL Guerrero (Tofila) and lieutenant governor Daniel Ogo Quitugua: The CNMI flag was stolen.

2. The trailer for the candidate for Saipan mayor, Antonio Pinaula Mareham: The CNMI flag was stolen.

3. The trailer for the candidate for the Senate, Jesus Ilo Taisague: The U.S. flag was stolen and the flag pole was destroyed.

In addition, there were two casino billboards that were destroyed located along the road past the traffic light intersection in Chalan Piao going up to the Agriculture Station.

Again, just vote for whatever decision your heart tells you but please do not destroy those billboards; respect the hard work and time of the people that erected them.

Whoever is/are responsible for those actions, we humbly ask that you please refrain from doing more destruction to the billboards of all the candidates. Liked I mentioned earlier, these are hard work and costs for the candidates. Please just vote and support for whoever you want but do not destroy the properties of our candidates.

May you find Jesus Christ's peace and love in your heart(s) and remember, whatsoever you do to the least of Jesus' brother or sister, you are doing it to Jesus himself. Thank you and may God bless you.

Rosiky F. Camacho
Chairman, CNMI Democratic Party

Enough already!

Enough is enough of negative writings, statements, and interviews about the granting of improved immigration status for all the nonresident workers here in the CNMI.

Once upon a time in our Commonwealth's history, the federal government granted us the exclusive authority to control our borders and immigration affairs. But we failed to study hard and, even more, we failed to turn in our homework on time. Since then the time down the road has changed almost completely because we have failed to foresee far away in the horizon that something in motion has already been moving and heading to our self-destruction. Today, the time has come against us like a strong current pushing us off the land floating in the water, and those floating ones in the water for months and years have come for their turn to land on land and get a breather.

Yes, the divided towns in the CNMI are crying out loud that the indigenous local population could become a minority in the future. Whether the future will dictate what will happen and what will not happen, the bottom line is that what we have been fearful and that which we have failed to do since the beginning has caught us all off-guard in defenselessness and speechlessness.

Whether one likes it or not the door of granting improved immigration status to the nonresident workers here in the CNMI will happen under the watches of President Obama, U.S. Congress, and Congressman Kilili.

Speaking of Congressman Kilili, he will win again and return to Washington, D.C. for another two years. Congressman Kilili is already there and has already been there, so why change him? Why fix a problem when there's no problem? Congressman Kilili's problems are our problems that we give him to fix for the future of our CNMI. So vote him again for the protection of all people across the lands here in the CNMI

Martin M. Sakisat
Garapan, Saipan

Hope you enjoyed Macau

I hope you and the 15 lawmakers who maneuvered this vote to ensure no one could contest it could perform simple arithmetic because you surely don't think this will fix anything. If you do, you are as ignorant of the facts as the retirees you so shamelessly exploited. To those representatives who instigated and engineered this under-the-table sweetheart deal, I hope you enjoyed the trips and other incentives, courtesy of these Hong Kong shysters, because we the people are going to do all we can to make sure you are not back in the House come November. What the CNMI desperately needs right now are honest, educated, worldly men and women with integrity, ethics, and character, and we will get it come November. Enjoy it while you can. To all who voted for these guys, they got what they paid for, a total sellout of Saipan. We also need 3,800 retirees to learn how to subtract so they can figure out how long it will be before their retirement totally runs out. It will be long before any casino gets built and with only 5 percent tax, it will be forever before the people of the CNMI see any money from this whole shady deal. Every single ethical person in the CNMI will be working to *throw you bums out* come November. Check every candidate and pick ones with the education, worldliness, integrity, ethics, and with empathy and vote them in. You should also vote for every woman running; they are proven to be less corruptible than men. To everyone that hasn't registered but is eligible, registration closes Oct. 6 so please register, and then vote to clean up the CNMI.

Gary DuBrall
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Should Inos be re-elected?

I have been following the news relating to the orthopedic surgeon who wants to make our home his home. Furthermore, he wants to help us and there certainly are places that pay more money on the mainland. I am absolutely disgusted in Gov. Inos' inaction in this matter. Esther Muna and her sidekick, Sherleen Osman, treated this senior surgeon terribly. The CHC board of trustees looked into his situation and confirms that he was treated unfairly. People loved him and he did great work. If he didn't get along with Muña or Osman then maybe there is something wrong with the latter. Since he was denied any rights at CHC and the hospital board confirmed this and still Muña and Osman would not open justice to him, then I am putting my faith in the orthopedic surgeon. Who appointed her? The answer is Inos. Who could fix this and bring him back? The answer is Inos. Who has done nothing? The answer again is Inos! A doctor with his credentials would be fantastic for Saipan. He was treated poorly. The governor is either turning a blind eye or is incompetent. Either way, I feel sorry for him. Since he is sickly on dialysis then maybe we need a healthy fighter with some spirit. Gov. Inos, I am disappointed in you. I would have voted for you had it not been for this. Who is going to stand up and help this man?

Joseph T. Comancho
Garapan, Saipan

PAKISTANI

From Page 10

Youth Peace Prize in 2011 and the U.N. Human Rights Prize in 2013—have also raised eyebrows in her homeland, where some question whether she deserves such honors. Because Malala is not the only victim of injustice toward women, some believe she has enjoyed disproportionate recognition for a little girl from the Swat valley, a frontier region beset by terrorism.

Terrorism thrives in Pakistan partly because of widespread hostility toward independent women. Malala was shot by the Taliban, but many of her harshest critics are regular Pakistanis.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

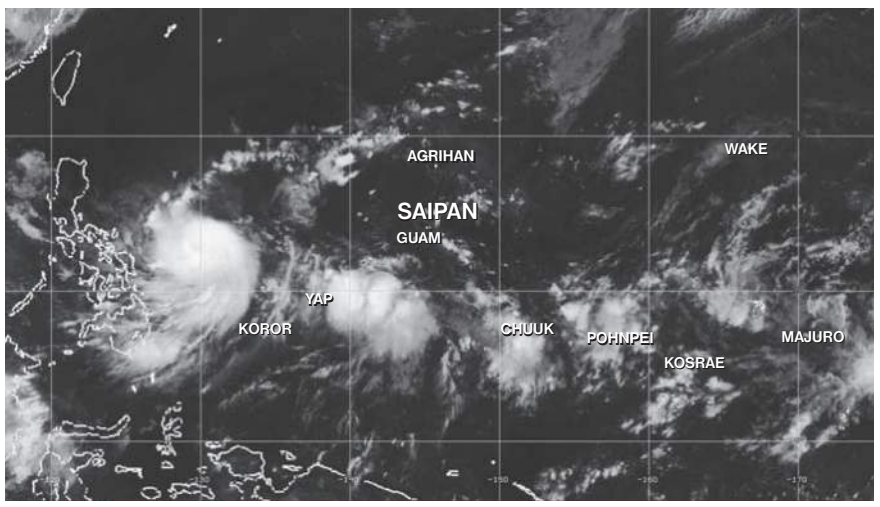
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲55	▼47
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲99	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼62
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼70
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲53	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲85	▼73
Osaka	Showers	▲87	▼74
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼65
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼70
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼68
Salem	Sunny	▲94	▼61
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼68
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲94	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 14, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Rammasun (09W) is centered 985 miles west of Guam near 13N130E moving west at 17 mph with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are northwest of Koror or west of a line from 14N133E to 8N133E. For more information on Tropical Storm Rammasun, see bulletins issued by Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. Surface troughing northeastward from TS Rammasun is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 17N130E to 20N143E. An active monsoon trough stretches from Tropical Storm Rammasun at 13N130E southeastward between Guam and Yap through a circulation just northeast of Chuuk at 8N154E curving northeastward through another circulation northwest of Kwajalein at 9N166E then dipping across Majuro at 7N171E to beyond the date line at 10N180. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms near Yap are between 11N and 6N from 138E to 145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Chuuk are within 175 miles of 6N151E and near Pohnpei within 150 miles of 7N157E. Patchy areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over eastern Micronesia are seen between 11N and the equator from 160E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:02 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
11:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:14 PM	8:29 AM
Wednesday	10:03 PM	9:29 AM
Thursday	10:49 PM	10:27 AM
Friday	11:34 PM	11:24 AM
Saturday	11:34 PM	12:19 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

United to launch daily non-stop Guam-Seoul flights

GUAM—United Airlines announced Monday plans to launch daily, non-stop service between its Guam hub and Seoul, South Korea, effective Oct. 27, 2014 (northbound). The airline will use Boeing 737-800 aircraft to operate the service. Flights are now available for sale.

"We are excited to add non-stop service to Seoul to our extensive Guam hub network," said Sam Shinohara, United's managing director, Business Development Asia/Pacific. "As Guam's hometown airline, we are thrilled to introduce South Korea as a new United destination for the Guam community, and at the same time we are committed to promoting Guam to the South Korean public as a perfect beach destination. We are happy to bring additional economic benefits to Guam's tourism industry following the recently-announced twice-weekly Guam-Shanghai non-stop service, which will start Oct. 28, 2014, subject to government approval."

Flight schedule

Flight UA163 will depart Guam's A. B. Won Pat Guam International Airport daily at 8:05am and arrive at Seoul's Incheon International Airport at 12:10pm the same day (all times local). Effective Oct. 26, 2014, the return flight, flight UA164, will depart Incheon daily at 10:25pm and arrive at Guam International Airport at 4am the following day (all times local). Flying times will be approximately 5 hours 5 minutes northbound and 4 hours 35 minutes southbound.

United in South Korea

United started non-stop service to South Korea in 1986 and today serves Seoul's Incheon International Airport with daily non-stop flights from San Francisco, using Boeing 747-400 aircraft, and from Tokyo, using Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

Onboard products and services

United's Boeing 737-800 series aircraft are configured with up to 155 seats—14 United Business and 141 United Economy. United Business offers a superior business-class service. United Business amenities include comfortable leather seats, multi-course meals with complimentary premium wines and spirits. It also offers audio in-flight entertainment with complimentary headsets as well as overhead screens delivering complimentary movies.

United Economy seats feature adjustable headrests and overhead screens delivering in-flight video entertainment. ***(United)***

Share you expertise, but make sure everyone knows it came from you

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

QUESTION: I can't decide whether to share some information with my colleagues. I am in the final year of a master's degree program, and I recently started a new job. Because of my graduate training, I have already been able to make some unique contributions.

Yesterday, a co-worker asked where I found an organizational tool that I was using. After I explained that I'm learning these techniques in school, she suggested putting the information in a shared directory for the whole department to use. I am feeling rather conflicted about this idea.

My graduate courses are expensive and require a lot of work. Since I'm making these sacrifices to gain a career advantage, it seems wrong to just give my knowledge away. On the other hand, I do want to be a helpful colleague. If I keep my resources to myself, am I being savvy or selfish?

ANSWER: To resolve this dilemma, you will need to expand your thinking. So far, you have defined your options as either hoarding your knowledge or dumping it into the computer system. While refusing to share would indeed be selfish, making an anonymous contribution would be politically stupid.

A far better alternative is to impart this valuable information in a way that showcases your talents. The first step in this process is to meet with your boss and explain what you have to offer.

For example: "Some techniques that I learned in graduate school have helped me work much more efficiently, so I thought they might also be useful to others. If you agree, I would like to talk about the best way to share these resources."

If your manager supports this effort, distribution strategies might include a lunch-and-learn session, an article for the newsletter, or a staff meeting presentation. Be sure to add your name and contact information to any printed or posted material. With this approach, you can assist your colleagues while simultaneously enhancing your reputation.

Q: My boss recently assigned a very annoying consultant to work with my department. This guy constantly tries to demonstrate his superiority by criticizing the way we do our jobs. I would like to tell my manager about his negative attitude, but they used to work together, so I'm afraid she might take it the wrong way. Should I say something or just try to be more open-minded?

A: Acting on emotion will only get you in trouble, so you need to control your instinctive territorial reaction. Not only do the consultant and your boss have a previous relationship, but she also selected him for this project. If you criticize his performance, you are automatically criticizing her decision.

Keep in mind that consultants are typically expected to recommend improvements, so try not to take this feedback personally. If you appear resistant to change, your boss might conclude that you are part of the problem. But if you seem open to new ideas, she will be more likely to consider your opinions.

US, Germany vow cooperation despite spy spat

VIENNA (AP)—The United States and Germany put a brave face on an escalating espionage dispute, stressing on Sunday the importance of their cooperation to solving several global crises but offering little indication they've fully mended ties.

After a meeting on the sidelines of nuclear talks in Vienna, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry each extolled the value of the two NATO allies' work together on issues such as Iran and Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Steinmeier directly addressed the difficult time in the key trans-Atlantic partnership, without explicitly mentioning the reports of two German government officials recruited by American intelligence. The accounts have rocked relations, coming on the heels of revelations about widespread U.S. spying in Germany.

"Relations between Germany and the U.S. are necessary and indispensable, and that's for both of our sides," Steinmeier told reporters in German. Still, he acknowledged the recent "difficulties" and urged that relations "revive on the basis of trust and mutual respect."

Kerry said their discussions touched on Iran, Iraq and violence in the Middle East, where Steinmeier is going Monday.

"The relationship between the United States and Germany is a strategic one and enormous political operation," Kerry said. "We are great friends. And we will continue to work together in the kind of spirit we exhibited today."

Kerry, mustering up his best German, then offered Germany "good luck" in Sunday's World Cup soccer final against Argentina. But he made no mention, even indirectly, of the two countries' espionage troubles.

The most significant consequence of the spy reports was Germany's demand three days ago for the CIA chief in Berlin to leave the country.

Mind-controlled commands for Google Glass

Actor Harry Shum, Jr. with his Google Glass. USA TODAY/MCT

By SALVADOR RODRIGUEZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Forget voice commands and touch gestures: A London firm has developed a way for Google Glass users to control their devices just by thinking.

This Place, an agency that specializes in creating user interfaces and experiences for programs used in the medical industry, developed a software called MindRDR that allows Google Glass to connect with the Neurosky MindWave Mobile EEG biosensor, a head-mounted device that can detect a person's brain waves.

EEG stands for electroencephalography, which is the measurement and recording of electrical activity in the brain. EEG biosensors have been around for decades, but until recently they were very expensive. Neurosky is a Silicon Valley company that sells EEG biosensors, some for as little as $79.99 from Amazon.com.

The system works by pairing the EEG biosensor with Google's $1,500 Glass device using Bluetooth. Once the connection has been made, the user fires up MindRDR, which takes what the EEG biosensor detects and converts it into commands that Glass can process.

After turning on the app, users will see a camera interface on the screen of their Google Glass. They can then pick a subject, aim their head in its direction, and concentrate on it while Glass displays a meter showing the level of their brain waves. The more intently a user focuses, the higher the meter climbs until it reaches the top, triggering Glass's camera. By repeating the process, users can direct MindRDR to upload the photo to one of their social networks.

For now MindRDR can only be used to snap pictures, but Dusan Hamlin, CEO of This Place, said he hoped his agency would continue developing the software so that it could eventually help users overcome mobility limitations. Specifically, Hamlin said he would like MindRDR to help people who suffer from locked-in syndrome, in which a patient has lost motor control but remains aware and alert, as well as quadriplegia.

"The ability to be able to use their mind to make outputs to a device could be a huge thing for them," Hamlin told the Los Angeles Times in a Skype interview.

But the possibilities for MindRDR extend beyond the medical field. Hamlin said he sees MindRDR as the launching point for a world where people can interact with their digital devices by simply thinking about what they want. To that end, This Place has uploaded the code for its software onto GitHub, a popular website used by developers to share code they create with others for free.

"What we've done is just scratch the surface, and we hope that we've inspired people to build on what we've started," Hamlin said.

Nation

Obama seeks governors' support on immigrant kids

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Matthews Burwell met privately with dozens of governors Sunday as the Obama administration tried to get support from the leaders of states that will host thousands of the Central American children who have crossed the Mexican border on their own since Oct. 1.

Governors of both parties expressed concerns about the cost to states, including providing public education for the children, according to those who attended the meeting. Burwell left the meeting through a side door without talking to reporters.

"Our citizens already feel burdened by all kinds of challenges. They don't want to see another burden come into their state," said Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat. "However we deal with the humanitarian aspects of this, we've got to do it in the most cost-effective way possible."

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad were among the most vocal Republican critics. They seized on the administration's plans to place the children with friends or family members without checking on their immigration status.

Under current law, immigrant children from countries that don't border the United States and who cross into this country by themselves are turned over to HHS within 72 hours. From there, they often are reunited with parents or placed with other relatives already living in the country, while they wait for an immigration court to decide their future. The court process can take years.

Obama

Neither Burwell's agency nor immigration officials check the immigration status of relatives who take custody of the immigrant children.

Since Oct. 1 more than 57,000 children have crossed the border alone. Most are from Honduras, El Salvador or Guatemala.

"We want to make sure they're placed in a safe and supportive home or placement, but also, it should be somebody that is legal and somebody that will be responsible to see that they show up for the hearing," Branstad said.

According to data from the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review, about a quarter of immigrants facing deportations hearings don't show up as ordered. The no-show rate for the juvenile immigration court docket is about 46 percent.

Amid the debate of what is causing the ongoing crush of child immigrants and how the government can stem the flow, two key lawmakers said President Barack Obama can take administrative action to relieve much of the crisis without waiting for what is likely to be a contentious and lengthy Congressional battle.

Michelle Knight says fame comes with complications

CLEVELAND (AP)—Michelle Knight has discovered that the fame that followed her escape from Ariel Castro's house of horrors cuts both ways.

There has been some obvious good. The girl who grew up without a toothbrush and spent nearly 11 years in captivity can provide for herself. She has her own apartment. Her book, "Finding Me," spent five weeks on the New York Times Bestsellers List. She and the other two women kidnapped by Castro split $1.4 million in donations collected after their escape. Phil McGraw of "Dr. Phil" television fame presented Knight with an oversized check for more than $400,000 from his foundation.

Knight

In a recent interview with the Associated Press, Knight said she is ready to assume a normal life and, with it, a new name and identity—Lily Rose Lee.

"I'm not a celebrity," said Knight, 33. "I don't want to be. I want to be me."

Fame has brought some frustrations. Knight becomes frightened when crowds sometimes gather around her as she walks alone. She finds it annoying when people snap cellphone photos without asking.

And people from her distant past have reappeared, feigning friendship but ultimately seeking money, she said.

"You have to be careful every day because of the book and the money and the `it' factor of who you are," she said. "They're not coming at me to be my friend. They want what I have."

Knight writes in her book that she grew up under less than ideal circumstances. Food and clothing were hard to come by. Strangers drifted in and out of the house at all hours. She said her mother kept her home from school for days at a time to care for her twin brothers and assorted cousins who lived there.

AP

Latta Police Chief Crystal Moore stands beside her police SUV on Thursday, July 10, 2014, in Latta, S.C.

ACROSS THE NATION

Sheriff: Bus was hit by stolen car going wrong way

RICHMOND, Ind. (AP)—A car that collided with a Greyhound bus on an Indiana highway, killing the car's driver and injuring 19 people on the bus, had just been stolen and was headed in the wrong direction, authorities said. Phillip Lloyd, the driver of the stolen 1999 Ford Mustang, died at the scene of the Sunday morning collision on Interstate 70 near Richmond, Wayne County Sheriff Jeff Cappa said. Lloyd was from Richmond, which is about 70 miles east of Indianapolis and near the Ohio border. The bus, which was carrying the driver and 23 passengers when it was struck, was headed from St. Louis to New York City. It also was scheduled to stop in Dayton, Ohio, about 35 miles east of the crash site.

Space station shipment launched from Virginia

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A commercial cargo ship rocketed toward the International Space Station on Sunday, carrying food, science samples and new odor-resistant gym clothes for the resident crew. Orbital Sciences Corp. launched its Cygnus capsule from the Virginia coast, its third space station delivery for NASA. "It's like Christmas in July," said Frank Culbertson, an executive vice president at Orbital Sciences and former astronaut. Daylight and clouds limited visibility, but observers from North Carolina to New Jersey still had a shot at seeing the rising Antares rocket. It resembled a bright light in the early afternoon sky.

Observation deck fire at Rockefeller Plaza hurts 6

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City fire officials say six people, including a child, suffered slight burns when a piece of camera equipment caught fire inside the observation deck of 30 Rockefeller Plaza. A fire department spokesman says the fire started just after 7:30 p.m. Sunday and was under control about a half hour later. He says the injuries were caused by embers from the fire falling onto the victims. Five adults at the scene refused medical attention and the child, whose age was not immediately known, was taken to a nearby hospital. No word on what caused the fire.

Small SC town rallies for fired gay police chief

LATTA, S.C. (AP)—When openly gay police chief Crystal Moore was fired by a mayor who condemned her lifestyle as "questionable," she feared her two decade career in law enforcement in this town was over.

Then, this conservative, small town rebelled.

The people of Latta, who voted overwhelmingly for a state amendment banning gay marriage eight years ago, turned against the mayor, stripped him of his powers and the town council rehired Moore. They said her dedication to the town mattered more than her sexual orientation.

Residents remembered Moore's civic spirit from as far back as 1989, when Hurricane Hugo tore through Latta. She was a high school student working part time as a police dispatcher, and helped cut downed tree limbs to clean up the debris. This February, when an ice storm crippled the town and left it without power for days, Moore piled her officers in her SUV and checked on as many people as she could.

"That's Crystal. All she does is help people. I don't get why he fired her. Maybe it's the ignorant people who talk the loudest. She was the same great Crystal yesterday as she is today, and she'll be the same person tomorrow," said lifelong Latta resident Dottie Walters.

Mayor Earl Bullard vehemently denied that he fired Moore because she was gay. Instead, he said she was dismissed for "sheer insubordination" during the three months he was her boss.

Moore said she hadn't received a single reprimand during her career until Bullard presented her with seven the day she was fired in April. Word of her termination spread fast in this tobacco hub of about 1,400 people, just off Interstate 95. About two dozen people gathered at her office in support on the day she was let go.

The support for Moore grew when Town Councilman Jarett Taylor started secretly recording his conversations with the mayor, which is legal in South Carolina. Taylor said he learned not to trust the mayor because he would tell him something, and later deny he ever said it.

In a conversation released to reporters after Moore was fired, the mayor said: "I'd much rather have somebody who drank and drank too much taking care of my child than I had somebody whose lifestyle is questionable around children, because that ain't the damn way it's supposed to be."

Bullard, who has avoided reporters for much of the past three months, told The Associated Press that was him on the tape. He offered no apologies.

"I don't like the homosexual ways portrayed in front of children," Bullard told AP by telephone Thursday. "You can't explain to a 5-year-old why another child has two mommies or two daddies."

Since the story made headlines, Bullard said he had received a stack of hate mail that was "probably an inch-and-a-half thick."

Within days of Moore's termination, the town council passed a vote of confidence in her. They also set up an election that would strip the mayor of his power and give them more authority, including the ability to hire the police chief.

Moore, who played softball at Latta High School, walked up and down the streets for days before the vote, explaining her side of the story and calling for change. Last month, 69 percent of 475 voters approved of taking the mayor's power away. Now essentially a figurehead, it's not clear what he is going to do next. He ran unopposed in 2013 and still has three years left on his term.

Asia

Militants storm Malaysia resort, kill 1, snatch 1

By EILEEN NG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Masked gunmen stormed a coastal Malaysian resort, shot a policeman and kidnapped another then sped away in a boat toward the southern Philippines, where Muslim militants have carried out similar raids in the past, a security official said Sunday.

The latest kidnapping highlights persistent security threats in Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo Island and is believed to be spillover of violence from the southern Philippines, a region where separatist militants and kidnap gangs are active just a short boat ride away.

Eight gunmen wearing army fatigues barged into the Mabul Water Bungalow Resort late Saturday and ambushed marine police officers on guard there, said Abdul Rashid Haron, who heads the Eastern Sabah Security Command.

A policeman was killed in the shootout and the gunmen, who had their faces covered, fled on a boat with another officer, Abdul Rashid said, adding that the boat was seen heading toward the southern Philippines.

He said the gunmen may either have been planning to kidnap someone at the resort or were targeting marine police after recent increased security on the island helped to curb their activities.

"We don't know their motive. Maybe they were retaliating because we have tightened security in the area. I cannot rule that out," Abdul Rashid said.

It was the fourth kidnapping in Sabah since April. A Malaysian fish breeder and his Filipino worker were abducted by Filipino Abu Sayyaf militants from their farm last month and believed taken to the southern Philippines.

A Chinese fish farm manager, a Chinese tourist and a Filipino resort worker who were all kidnapped earlier this year have since been released.

Seoul: N. Korea fires artillery shells into ocean

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Monday fired artillery shells into waters near its sea border with South Korea, Seoul's military said, a day after the country test-launched two ballistic missiles in the latest of a series of weapon tests.

The shells fired from sites near the heavily fortified land border landed north of the maritime border so South Korea hasn't returned fire, said an officer at Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff. He said the North Korean firing was continuing but gave no further details.

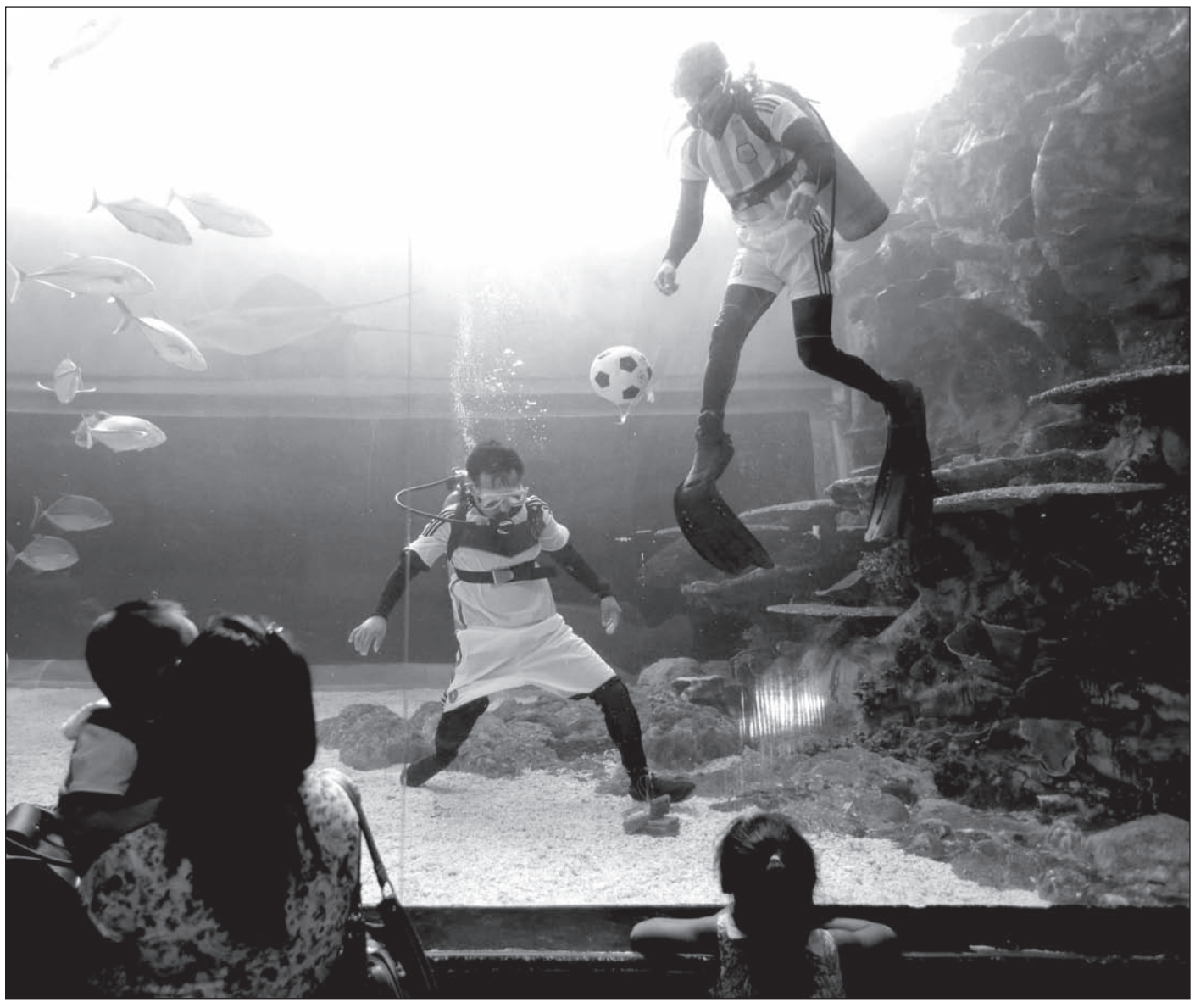
South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the North fired 100 shells, presumed to be from multiple rocket launch systems. The news agency cited an unidentified military official.

The eastern sea border is clearly marked compared with the Koreas' disputed western sea boundary, the scene of several bloody maritime skirmishes between the two Koreas in recent years. The Koreas exchanged artillery fire twice earlier this year near the western sea boundary.

North Korea has been conducting an unusually large number of missile and rocket tests recently, including two ballistic missile launches as late as Sunday, though it has also proposed a set of measures it says will lower tension between the Koreas.

Analyst say the conflicting moves indicate North Korea will keep trying to bolster its defense regardless of its recent push to lower tension unless Seoul and Washington make major concessions such as scaling down their regular military drills it calls an invasion rehearsal.

Earlier Monday, South Korea said North Korea has agreed to hold talks at a border village on Thursday to discuss the North's participation in the upcoming Asian Games in the South.



UNDERWATER MATCH AP

Visitors watch as divers, wearing jerseys of Germany and Argentina, top right, battle for the ball during an underwater friendly match at the Manila Ocean Park, one of Asia's largest oceanarium, in support of the World Cup final in Brazil, Saturday, July 12, 2014 in Manila, Philippines.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Cambodia military helicopter crash kills 5

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A Cambodian military helicopter crashed during a training mission south of the capital on Monday, killing five people on board, police said. It was not immediately clear what caused the accident. At least one person survived but was seriously injured, said Tum Polin, a police officer at the crash site. The chopper went down about 10 kilometers (six miles) south of Phnom Penh. It crashed into a pond surrounded by rural land and rice fields, and had sunk into the mud, Tum Polin said. Chhay Bunna, chief of police at the nearby international airport, said new air force pilots were undergoing training at the time.

Indian villagers protest as 4 missing found dead

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Police on Sunday fired rubber bullets and used batons to disperse hundreds of villagers protesting the abductions and killings of four Muslim traders in India's remote northeast, where ethnic tensions run high. The protesters defied a curfew and beat up one police officer in Baksa district in Assam state, said Magistrate Vinod Seshan. The traders were abducted on Friday and their bodies recovered Sunday. No one has claimed responsibility for the killings. The villagers later retreated into their homes as army and paramilitary soldiers intensified patrols.

Chinese officials will buy more electric cars

BEIJING (AP)—At least 30 percent of newly purchased government cars will be electric and other types of "new energy vehicles," China's official news agency reported Sunday, as the country attempts to tackle air pollution and encourage the electric car market. A joint plan from five government ministries and departments calls for about a third of cars bought for state use from 2014 to 2016 to rely on clean energy, and the percentage will be raised year by year after that, the Xinhua News Agency said. New energy vehicles include electric cars, plug-in hybrids, fuel-cell and solar-powered cars. China is the world's biggest auto market by number of vehicles sold.

China indicts US, British corporate investigators

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities formally indicted two corporate investigators, an American and Briton, for allegedly illegally obtaining and selling private information, state media reported Monday. Prosecutors in Shanghai filed charges against British investigator Peter Humphrey and his wife Yingzeng Yu, a U.S. citizen, at the city's No. 1 Intermediate People's Court, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The move paves the way for the couple to stand trial. The official Xinhua News Agency said it is the first time foreigners have faced such charges in China. Humphrey and Yu are part of an industry of investigators who help corporate clients screen potential partners and employees or watch for embezzlement and other employee misconduct.

Afghans express relief at election deal

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Amid relief that a dangerous rift in the country's troubled democracy has been averted, Afghan officials praised a deal between presidential contenders brokered by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and said Sunday they hope to finish a full ballot audit within weeks.

Kerry unveiled the breakthrough deal Saturday night, with both hopefuls promising to abide by the results of the audit, followed by plans for the winner to form a government of national unity with participation of the losing side. The agreement followed a marathon series of shuttle meetings between the two candidates who took part in the June 14 runoff—former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah and former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai.

The two stood by Kerry's side when the bargain was revealed on national television and then spoke endorsing the agreement.

With many Afghans saying the deal exceeded their expectations from Kerry's two-day mediation, the chairman of the country's Independent Election Commission told reporters at a news conference that the commission is ready to start auditing all 8 million votes cast from 23,000 polling station within a few days and hopes to complete the process in three weeks.

Money dealers said that the value of the Afghan currency improved after the deal, and ordinary Afghan citizens in the capital and political leaders were univocal in their praise—although some cautioned that it must still be implemented and that the way ahead is still difficult.

The chairman, Ahmad Yousuf Nouristani, said additional auditors would need to be trained, but the audit can begin this week in the presence of representatives from both candidates as well as national and international observers. Audits can take place around the clock, with an aim of getting through about 1,000 polling stations results per day, he said.

The deal offered a path out of the impending political crisis in Afghanistan. Until Kerry stepped in, aided by U.N. representative Jan Kubis, both candidates had been claiming victory and even were talking of setting up competing governments.

There had been fears that a falling out between supporters of Ahmadzai and Abdullah could lead to civil war in a country already contending with a serious threat from Taliban fighters, who are in the midst of a summer offensive.

World

Thousands of Palestinians flee northern Gaza

AP

Palestinians flee their homes to take shelter at the United Nations school in Gaza City, Sunday, July 13, 2014.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Thousands of Palestinian residents of the northern Gaza Strip fled their homes on Sunday and sought safety in U.N. shelters, heeding warnings from the Israeli military about impending plans to bomb the area in the sixth day of an offensive against Hamas that has killed more than 160 people.

The fighting showed no signs of slowing, despite international calls for a cease-fire and growing concerns about the mounting civilian death toll in Gaza. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and voiced U.S. "readiness" to help restore calm, while Egypt, a key mediator between Israel and Hamas, continued to work behind the scenes.

■■■

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The target was the Gaza police chief. He survived the Israeli airstrike on a cousin's home with critical injuries, but 18 family members were killed, including five children and teens.

The weekend attack highlighted Israel's broad definition of military targets in its current offensive against the Islamic militant group Hamas. The army says those targets include senior Hamas activists and their homes, even as it insists it is doing the utmost to spare bystanders by warning them to clear out.

However, the U.N. Office for Humanitarian Affairs said Sunday that civilians made up the majority of Palestinian casualties over the past six days—133 of 168 killed and nearly half of more than 1,100 wounded. And a human-rights researcher said some of Israel's strikes appear to have violated rules of war.

■■■

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for an immediate cease-fire in a statement issued late Sunday by his spokesman's office.

Ban "strongly believes that it is in the interest of both sides that steps toward dangerous escalation be replaced with immediate measures to end the fighting, thus preventing further casualties and greater risks to regional peace and security," it said.

Ban condemned Hamas' indiscriminate firing of rockets against Israeli civilian targets as "a violation of international law," it said. He abhorred "the image of Israeli families hovering in shelters in fear of their children's safety" and demanded "an immediate cessation of these indecent attacks."

At the same time, the U.N. chief is "deeply worried about the impact on Palestinian families of Israeli military action. Too many Palestinian civilians have been killed, and any Israeli ground offensive will undoubtedly increase the death toll and exacerbate civilian suffering in the Gaza Strip," it said.

Ban noted that despite the U.N. Security Council's demand for a cease-fire, "the situation in and around the Gaza Strip appears to be worsening," it said.

Amid the diplomacy, Israel said it was pushing forward with preparations for a possible ground invasion of Gaza. Thousands of troops have massed along the border in recent days.

"We don't know when the operation will end," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his Cabinet on Sunday. "It might take a long time." He said the military was prepared "for all possibilities."

Israel launched the offensive last Tuesday in what it said was a response to heavy rocket fire out of Hamas-controlled Gaza. The military says it has launched more than 1,300 airstrikes, while Palestinian militants have launched more than 800 rockets at Israel. The Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza says 166 people have been killed, including dozens of civilians. There have been no Israeli fatalities, though several people have been wounded, including a teenage boy who was seriously injured by rocket shrapnel Sunday.

Early Sunday, the Israeli air force dropped leaflets around the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahia ordering people to evacuate their homes. Israel says much of the rocket fire has come from the area, and overnight Sunday, the military carried out a brief ground operation on what it said was a rocket-launching site that could not be struck from the air. Four Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded before returning to Israel.

The U.N. refugee agency for Palestinians, UNRWA, said some 17,000 Palestinians had headed to special shelters set up in 20 United Nations schools in Gaza.

"The fact that in a span of almost a few hours, 10,000 people sought refuge in these 15 schools is an indication to the difficult situation on the ground," said Sami Mshasha, a UNRWA spokesman.

Some raced by in pickup trucks, waving white flags. "Once we received the message, we felt scared to stay in our homes. We want to leave," said one resident, Mohammed Abu Halemah.

Shortly before nightfall, Israel carried out a series of airstrikes in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahia. Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV station reported four airstrikes in a 10-minute span, and a large plume of black smoke could be seen over the area from the Israeli border. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Hamas, an Islamic militant group sworn to Israel's destruction, has remained defiant, and it continued to fire rockets into Israel throughout the day. It urged people in northern Gaza to stay in their homes and has so far rejected proposals for a cease-fire as unsatisfactory.

"They want us to put down our arms and leave the resistance," said Moussa Abu Marzouk, a top Hamas official, on his Facebook page. "They started the battle, and we will stay on our land and fight to protect our future."

Despite Israeli claims that it has inflicted heavy damage on the group, Hamas says it is largely unscathed, and Palestinian medics say most of the dead have been civilians.

The outbreak of violence follows the kidnappings and killings of three Israeli teenagers in the West Bank, the kidnapping and killing of a Palestinian teenager in an apparent revenge attack, and wide-ranging Israeli moves against Hamas militants and infrastructure in the West Bank. Hamas has demanded that hundreds of recently arrested activists be freed as part of a cease-fire.

Russia: 1 killed near Ukraine border by shell fire

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's foreign ministry said Sunday that a Ukrainian shell hit a Russian border town, killing one person and seriously injuring two others. Ukraine denied firing a shell into Russian territory.

President Vladimir Putin expressed "grave concern" over the incident, Russian news agencies quoted his spokesman as saying. A statement from Russia's foreign ministry labeled the event a "provocation," and warned of the possibility of "irreversible consequences, the responsibility for which lies on the Ukrainian side."

Russia said the shell hit the courtyard of a residential building in the Russian town of Donetsk—near the Ukrainian city of the same name that has become a rebel stronghold—early on Sunday. Ukraine's restless east has been mired in a pro-Russian separatist insurgency against the Kiev government.

Ukrainian officials denied that any Ukrainian shells had fallen on Russian territory. Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, was quoted by Interfax Ukraine as saying that Ukrainian forces "do not fire on the territory of a neighboring country. They do not fire on residential areas." He placed blame for the attack on the rebels themselves.

Russia has made repeated claims that settlements along its porous border with Ukraine—which the West and Kiev say is a key supply route for the rebels—have been hit by Ukrainian fire, but no deaths have been previously reported.

The claims come as Putin, whose nation will host the 2018 World Cup, is attending Sunday's final in Rio de Janeiro to take part in a handover ceremony with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and FIFA President Sepp Blatter.

Brazilian officials said Saturday that both Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart, Petro Poroshenko, would attend the match. But Poroshenko announced Sunday that he wouldn't be going.

Iraq parliament postpones decision on new leaders

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's deadlocked parliament failed Sunday to overcome the deep divisions hampering the formation of a new government, making no progress on choosing new leaders who could help hold the nation together and confront the Sunni militant blitz that has overrun much of the country.

The legislature is under pressure to quickly choose a new speaker of parliament, president and prime minister—the first steps toward a new government. The international community has pressed lawmakers to put their differences aside, while the United Nations has warned of chaos if the political impasse drags on for too long.

But just 30 minutes into Sunday's parliament session, acting speaker Mahdi al-Hafidh announced he was breaking off the proceedings until Tuesday "due to the absence of any agreement on the names of the nominees for the three posts."

"There are still deep differences," he said. "We need more discussions to agree on the names."

Hopes had been raised that lawmakers might at least vote on a speaker of parliament after Sunni blocs announced late Saturday that they had agreed on a candidate for the post, Salim al-Jubouri. But even that proved difficult, and lawmakers dispersed amid mutual recriminations.

"We have presented our candidate for the post of the parliament speaker," said leading Sunni lawmaker Osama al-Nujaifi. "We hold other blocs responsible for the delay."

Bomb kills 7 security forces in western Algeria

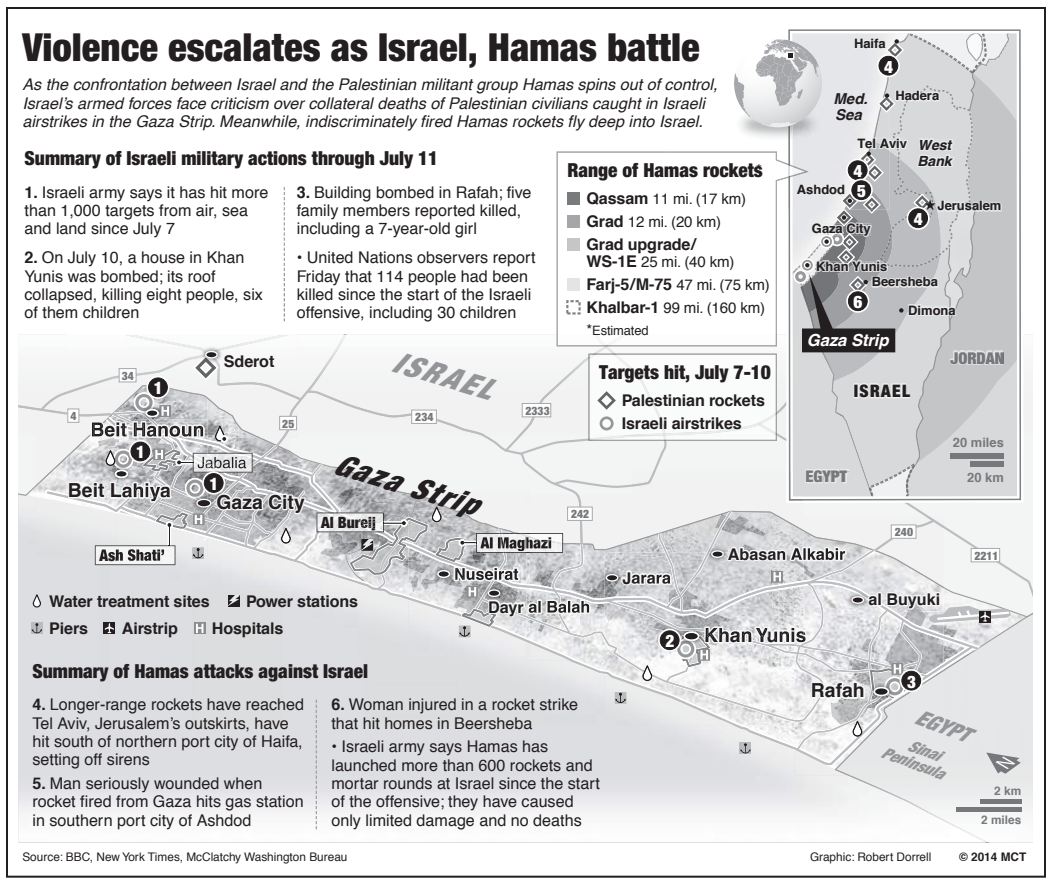
ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—Algerian authorities say a remote-controlled homemade bomb exploded and killed seven security officers in the northwest of the North African country.

The Defense Ministry says in a statement Sunday the victims were aboard a military truck en route to their base when they hit a bomb in the town of Ain Kercha, 500 kilometers (300 miles) west of the capital, Algiers.

The ministry says three soldiers and four local guards were killed in the attack Saturday night. The statement didn't say who detonated the bomb or why, but reiterated the army's "determination to pursue and eliminate these small terrorist groups."

Algeria, home to Al-Qaida's North African branch, has largely stabilized since an insurgency in the 1990s, but still sees sporadic violence between Islamic extremists and security forces.

Focus


Violence escalates as Israel, Hamas battle
As the confrontation between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas spins out of control, Israel's armed forces face criticism over collateral deaths of Palestinian civilians caught in Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, indiscriminately fired Hamas rockets fly deep into Israel.
Summary of Israeli military actions through July 11
1. Israeli army says it has hit more than 1,000 targets from air, sea and land since July 7
2. On July 10, a house in Khan Yunis was bombed; its roof collapsed, killing eight people, six of them children
3. Building bombed in Rafah; five family members reported killed, including a 7-year-old girl
• United Nations observers report Friday that 114 people had been killed since the start of the Israeli offensive, including 30 children
Range of Hamas rockets
Qassam 11 mi. (17 km)
Grad 12 mi. (20 km)
Grad upgrade/ WS-1E 25 mi. (40 km)
Farj-5/M-75 47 mi. (75 km)
Khalbar-1 99 mi. (160 km)
*Estimated
Targets hit, July 7-10
Palestinian rockets
Israeli airstrikes
Haifa
Med. Sea
Hadera
Tel Aviv
West Bank
Ashdod
Jerusalem
Gaza City
Khan Yunis
Beersheba
Dimona
Gaza Strip
JORDAN
ISRAEL
EGYPT
20 miles
20 km
Sderot
ISRAEL
Beit Hanoun
Jabalia
Beit Lahiya
Gaza City
Gaza Strip
Al Bureij
Al Maghazi
Ash Shati'
Nuseirat
Dayr al Balah
Jarara
Abasan Alkabir
al Buyuki
Khan Yunis
Rafah
EGYPT
Sinai Peninsula
Water treatment sites
Power stations
Piers
Airstrip
Hospitals
Summary of Hamas attacks against Israel
4. Longer-range rockets have reached Tel Aviv, Jerusalem's outskirts, have hit south of northern port city of Haifa, setting off sirens
5. Man seriously wounded when rocket fired from Gaza hits gas station in southern port city of Ashdod
6. Woman injured in a rocket strike that hit homes in Beersheba
• Israeli army says Hamas has launched more than 600 rockets and mortar rounds at Israel since the start of the offensive; they have caused only limited damage and no deaths
2 km
2 miles
Source: BBC, New York Times, McClatchy Washington Bureau
Graphic: Robert Dorrell
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AP ANALYSIS

Mideast crisis a strategic stalemate

By DAN PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

If the Israel-Hamas fighting feels like a rerun, that's because it is.

This is the third round of Hamas rockets and Israel airstrikes since the Islamic militant group seized control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. And issues each time seem much the same: How can Hamas be compelled to stop firing rockets? Does Israel really have the will to reconquer a Hamas-ruled Gaza and oust the militants? Can the world tolerate Israel reacting with far deadlier force than the rockets themselves, as evidenced in the hugely lopsided casualty count that each time appears anew?

This round of violence came after peace talks collapsed, Israel tried to scuttle a Palestinian unity government and violence ratcheted up. With the Gazans now suffering more, one might expect internal pressure on Hamas to end the rocket fire, which would likely bring the airstrikes to a stop. But in a region where honor is key, and with the two sides not talking, outside mediation is badly needed for a mutually face-saving cease-fire.

In a strategic stalemate where neither side seems able to accept or defeat the other, here are some key issues at play:

FOR ISRAEL, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ROCKETS

The Israeli point of view is that Hamas has grown accustomed to firing rockets and no country would tolerate such attacks. Doing nothing is not an option, and pounding Hamas hard enough seems to eventually win some quiet. It views civilian deaths in airstrikes as regrettable but blames Hamas for locating launchers and weapons at civilian sites. Israel's makes efforts to minimize "collateral damage," like warning calls to residents and preceding big attacks on buildings with smaller bombs, a practice dubbed "roof-knocking." Beyond this, Israelis see Hamas as a ruthless mortal enemy that cannot be accommodated and, due to its radical Islamic tenets, can barely be reasoned with.

PALESTINIANS ARE ANGRY AND FRUSTRATED

Palestinians cast a wider net. For them the very situation in Gaza is unacceptable: since the Hamas takeover Israel has blockaded it by land from the north and the east, and by sea from the west, preventing air travel as well. Egypt completes the siege by keeping a tight leash on its border with Gaza to the south. The strip's 1.7 million people are crammed into low-rise shanty towns in a territory no more than 20 miles (35 kilometers) long and just a few miles (kilometers) wide. And even though Israel pulled out all soldiers and settlers in 2005, claiming this ended its occupation, Gazans depend on the Jewish state for electricity, water, communication networks and even the currency.

For many Palestinians, even those who do not support Hamas, non-conventional means like rocket fire against their perceived tormentors are an acceptable response. At least, some reason, the world will take notice. Some 20 years of peace talks failed to yield an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza, and with the collapse two months ago of the latest round led by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, some fear the occupation of the West Bank may be permanent. Coupled with the dire situation in Gaza, the other part of the would-be Palestinian state, it is a situation that breeds despondency and despair.

RARE CONSENSUS FOR NETANYAHU

Israel is a society so divided that normally it's hard to describe the Israeli point of view—but not so when it comes to Hamas and its rockets. That's a rare opportunity for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Many Israelis dislike his policies toward the Palestinians in general, and some truly abhor the Jewish settlement of the West Bank which Netanyahu continues to promote. But the vast majority of Israelis distrust and despise Hamas—perpetrators of countless suicide bombings targeting civilians and plainly aimed, over the years, at derailing peace efforts by more moderate Palestinians. For Netanyahu, each round with Hamas offers him a genuine popularity that's otherwise elusive.

HAMAS HAS FEW ALLIES

Arab politicians will heap condemnation on Israel but few genuinely shed tears for Hamas. The Palestinian group is the local chapter of a wider political Islam that in the wake of the Arab Spring is under siege in much of the region, firstly in Egypt but also in much of the Gulf and beyond. Even one-time ally Iran has backed away, funding sources have dried up, and the West largely views it as a terrorist group. The Palestinian Authority recently set up a joint government with Hamas, but its animosity with the secular Fatah group of President Mahmoud Abbas runs deep. Hamas also has not accepted the conditions set by the world community to become a legitimate player: recognize Israel, abide by past agreements and renounce violence.

DISPROPORTIONATE CASUALTIES

In the battle for global public opinion, Israel may be a victim of its own success in preventing domestic casualties. Its Iron Dome missile defense system has shot down incoming Hamas rockets, leaving many in Tel Aviv with the conflicting sensation of fear and the desire to post videos of the interceptions online. No Israelis have been killed in the past week, while more than 160 Gazans have died, many of them civilians. Similar ratios were posted during the last round, in late 2012, and also during the largest mini-war, that began in late December 2008. That buys Netanyahu time with domestic opinion—but international pressure can soon be expected for Israel to find a way to stop. And in the end Hamas may get renewed relevance and even some of its prisoners released. After all, part of its motivation currently is gaining the release of supporters who were recently rearrested in a West Bank sweep that followed the kidnap-killing of three Israeli youths that Hamas did not claim but was blamed on the group.

Many believe Hamas is therefore not entirely averse to provoking Israel into its attacks. Public opinion matters somewhat less in the strip, which is hardly a democracy, than in Israel. And it is hard to see a scenario in which the populace rises up and topples the militants: Gaza is small enough to control and the alternatives have essentially been stamped out.

ISRAEL PREFERS TO RULE THE SKIES

Israel could probably change the game quickly by invading Gaza and rooting out its Hamas rulers, and Sunday already saw a small version of it with a first land skirmish inside the strip. But a true invasion would probably be a bloody affair and Israel has little stomach for great numbers of casualties. If it does go that route, a ground incursion likely would repeat the strategy of 2008-9, in which there was some ground fighting but the heart of Gaza City was not retaken and the Hamas leadership essentially left intact. And from the perspective of the longer term, Israel has no desire to again occupy the strip, as it did from 1967 to 2005. That leaves Israel with few attractive choices, which might explain why Hamas continues to fire the rockets: to poke Israel in the eye, and live to tell the tale.

Palestinians walk past one of the houses of the al-Batsh family, demolished by an Israeli strike earlier last week, as they rush to the funeral procession of several members of the al-Batsh family who were killed in Saturday's Israeli airstrike, during a funeral procession in Gaza City on Sunday, July 13, 2014.
AP

Overdrive

Luxury Rolls-Royce car sales soar worldwide

LONDON (AP)—They are rolling symbols of wealth and excess, starting at $263,000 a pop, with many buyers choosing custom options that can easily double the price. And they are more popular than ever before.

Rolls-Royce reported a startling rise in demand for their distinctive cars Tuesday.

The British-made cars, updated to reflect the technical know-how and marketing might of parent company BMW, have become must-haves for the new global elite. That group is growing in number even as much of the world struggles to get by in an era of low growth, low expectations and high unemployment.

The company said 1,968 cars were sold in the first half of this year compared to 1,475 in the same period last year.

The 33 percent rise in sales for the first six months of 2014 compared to the same period last year is explained not just by the cars' plush leather seats and gleaming paintwork—those are old standbys for the brand, which used to focus on the British aristocracy—but also by the rising number of billionaires worldwide.

A Forbes survey says there are 1,645 billionaires in the world, 219 more than a year ago.

"If you look at the number of ultra-high net worth individuals around the world, that number is clearly growing," said company spokesman Andrew Ball. "The luxury market is growing at the high end and we are delighted to be part of that."

AP

In this Nov. 21, 2013 file photo, models pose beside the Rolls-Royce Canton Glory at the company's booth during Guangzhou 2013 Auto Show in China's southern city of Guangzhou.

The phenomenon helps to explain the strong sales of mega-yachts, rare jewelry and complicated, handmade Swiss watches. There are more people with more money looking for ways to stand out from the crowd—and in this context, a Rolls becomes a very noticeable statement.

Ball said 70 percent of Rolls buyers are new to the brand, and roughly half choose to customize their cars by adding expensive personal touches. The cost of making a Rolls "bespoke"—the British term for custom-made suits—rather than "off the rack" can dwarf many household budgets.

"It can be simple, like having your initials stitched into the headrest or the veneer," said Ball. "Customers enjoy this. It's an emotional process."

It's also a level of consumerism that soars as high as London's famous Shard skyscraper: A refrigerator inside the automobile can be custom built to accommodate the shape and size of the owner's favorite beverage—at a cost rivalling a year in a U.S. college.

The company is opening its first showroom in Cambodia. But it remains an essentially British product, enjoyed by Queen Elizabeth II and evoking the opulence of the Downton Abbey era.

At Rolls-Royce Motor Cars London, the showroom in a particularly posh section of Mayfair, visitors are drawn to a sparkling black Phantom (starting at $600,000) and the Wraith, a bargain at $400,000 unless you want some options. The back of the dealership resembles a home furnishings store, with samples of different woods and hides.

Gone are the days when Rolls-Royce traditionalists sneered at Beatle John Lennon for adding a psychedelic paint job to his Phantom V. When a man walked into the Mayfair showroom carrying his wife's favorite pink lipstick and asking for a Rolls in the same shade, the company was happy to provide one, said salesman Stephen Foulds.

He said the customer base was growing younger, with one Chinese man in his 20s recently ordering his second Rolls in an unusual all-white color scheme. Another traded in his Lamborghini when he was starting a family because he needed a backseat.

Octane Magazine deputy editor Mark Dixon said Rolls Royce has also managed to shed its image of producing fuddy-duddy machines. He loved the quirky touches that make a Rolls unique, like the starlight roof headlining that comes as an option with the Phantom coupe.

"There are hundreds of little LEDs set into the roof lining, it seems like the night sky when you're driving at night," he said. "There was disquiet about this great British brand being bought by the Germans, but most people agree now it was a good move."

He said BMW has introduced state-of-the-art features to Rolls—like the satellite-assisted gearbox technology that can see a hairpin curve before the driver does and adjust the gearbox accordingly—and given new models real zip.

"You could describe the Ghost as a hot rod, it really is a fast car," he said. "It has a twin turbo V-12 which goes like a scalded cat. It actually handles much better than you would expect."

MOTORING Q&A:

How to handle emergency with push-button ignition

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: In your column you gave advice on what to do if someone experienced a stuck throttle. With a traditional key, I understand the steps you mentioned. But our next vehicle may be equipped with a push-button ignition. How would we handle an emergency situation like a stuck accelerator or unintended acceleration? Also, one of the vehicles we are interested in has a push-button transmission, not a normal gear shifter. Does shifting to neutral still apply?

ANSWER: We currently have a vehicle with electronic rather than mechanical door locks and a fob-in-pocket push-button ignition on the dash. I don't care for either of these. If the car battery goes dead, the doors cannot be unlocked from the outside. You must use an emergency key stored in the fob to unlock the rear hatch and pull a cable to mechanically unlock the front door. If you are inside the vehicle when the battery fails and the doors are locked—exceptionally rare, of course, but still a possibility—you must pull an emergency door release lever to open the door.

As modern and slick as this technology is, I can't help but wonder what the true benefits are. A remote keyless entry system opens doors from the outside and a key-in-the-ignition switch started and stopped the engine. Mind you, these electronic systems aren't necessarily bad but I don't see any real advantage.

In reference to dealing with a stuck throttle or unintended acceleration, the push-button ignition switch does suggest a possible complication. In order to shut off the engine, one must depress and hold in the button for a short period of time—a demanding and difficult procedure when dealing with an emergency.

To deal with a stuck throttle/unintended acceleration with a system like this, shift the transmission into neutral, then steer and brake the car to a safe stop—as I suggested in my earlier column. Again, modern engine management systems will prevent the engine from over-revving in neutral in this situation.

Whether the shift mechanism is push-button, floor-mounted or on the steering column doesn't matter. Immediately shift into neutral and then deal with the situation.

Q: I love my Dodge Intrepid but the headlights have never been adequate. I keep the lenses polished and clear but the lights are worse than the 6-volt bulbs in my 1951 Ford sealed-beam headlights. What can I do? I need better lights to drive at night.

A: Age and your eyes may be part of this, but regardless, you can upgrade the halogen bulbs in your composite headlamp assemblies. Probably your best choice would to install a xenon HID (high-intensity discharge) headlamp kit. HID headlamps are original equipment on many newer vehicles and offer a significant improvement in lighting. The installation isn't quite as simple as replacing the standard bulb—it requires a ballast assembly and additional wiring harness. Prices are in the $100-$300 range for the kit.

Q: I have a 2007 Chevrolet 1500 V-8 that can burn E85. I got the flex fuel option when E85 was about 65 cents per gallon less than gas. Now I am seeing a difference of about 25 cents, which means it doesn't make sense to burn E85. Is there a formula for figuring the break-even point? If you use E85 on every fill, will that harm the engine or make it run rough?

A: There's no perfect answer here. E85 prices vary state-to-state from about 10 to 25 percent less than gasoline, thus the economics vary tremendously. The EPA combined mileage estimates for a 2014 Chevy 5.3-liter K1500 4WD are 18 mpg on gasoline and 13 mpg on E85—a difference of more than 25 percent. Compare this with the percentage difference in cost between fuels and you'll have your answer for that fill-up. While there is no benefit to engine reliability or durability, E85 won't harm your engine.

Q: How mechanically safe is it to drive using cruise control at 25-35 mph? A friend uses cruise control on streets so she doesn't speed. Does this hurt the car?

A: I don't think so. Most cruise systems are designed to not engage below a certain speed, typically the 25-30 mph range. But if the system will engage, it won't cause any damage to the vehicle. Personally, I'd be more concerned that with one less thing to monitor and maintain, there would be more opportunity for distraction while driving.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

Life & Style

Simon Cowell on a business, personal roll

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Life is good these days for Simon Cowell.

"America's Got Talent," which he created and produces, reigns as summer's top-rated program and was renewed Sunday for a 10th season by NBC. It's part of a "Got Talent" franchise seen in 62 countries which, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, makes it the most successful reality show yet.

Three weeks ago, he placed a good-sized bet on Germany to win the World Cup. And, to top it all off, he's reveling in first-time fatherhood with his infant son with his girlfriend, socialite Lauren Silverman.

"He's amazing. We're in the Hamptons (in New York) at the moment, taking a break. He's 5 months old, learning to swim," Cowell said.

Family life hasn't derailed attending to business for the British TV host and producer who's also the music executive behind such hit acts as One Direction.

Cowell

He's pleased, if unsurprised, that NBC renewed "America's Got Talent," which features Howard Stern, Heidi Klum, Mel B and Howie Mandel as judges and Nick Cannon as host. The series, a big-tent talent show for every sort of performer, has thrived while singing shows like "American Idol" and "The Voice" have suffered ratings erosion.

"There's so many music shows on at the moment, there was always going to be this problem of dilution. The whole reason we devised `Talent' is it was supposed to be different," Cowell said.

He attributes its success worldwide in large part to careful handling by FremantleMedia, its co-owner and producer with Cowell's Syco Entertainment. The program airs just once a year in each market to avoid wearing out the format's welcome.

In contrast, he considers his U.S. version of "The X Factor" singing contest a victim of overcrowding, canceled by Fox after three seasons. Cowell said if he had it to do over again he would have insisted Fox choose between it or network sibling "American Idol."

"Having two shows and `The Voice' (on NBC) running at the same time was way too much," he said. "If they had kept with `X Factor' and had more confidence in it, the show would have done what it is in the U.K.," where it's a hit.

That easy confidence, a Cowell trademark, may explain why he's planning on returning to the arena with another singing contest. It's been in development for about eight months and will have a new twist—he's keeping that secret—to distinguish itself from the competition, he said.

He'll present the idea to U.S. networks when he thinks it's ready, he said, along with another talent show that he's working on that, like "AGT," isn't solely just music-related.

Might he consider another project altogether, marriage to Silverman?

"We'll wait and see," Cowell replied, politely.

'Planet of the Apes' thumps chest with $73M debut

NEW YORK (AP)—The monkey business is a good business to be in at the box office.

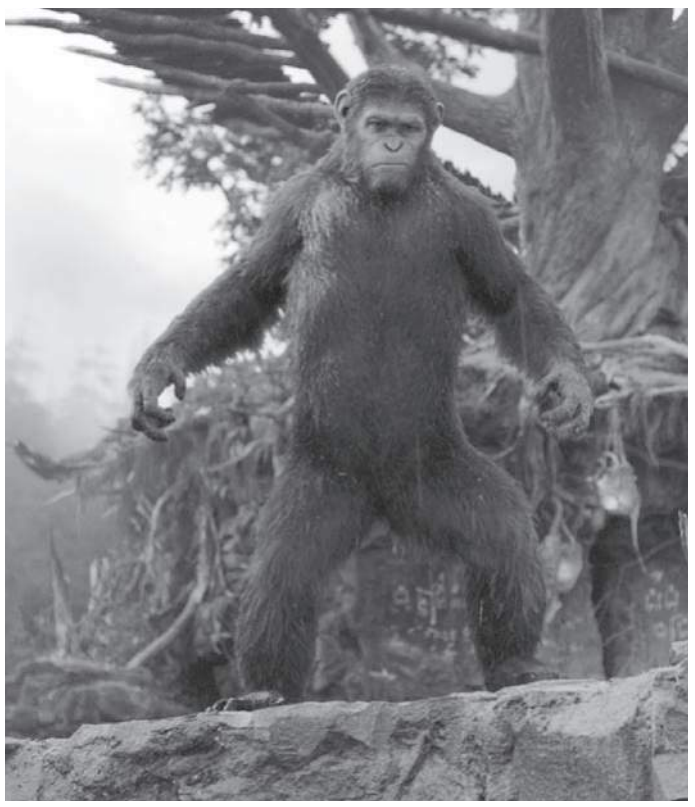
"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" roared to $73 million on its opening weekend, one of the summer's best debuts, according to studio estimates Sunday. The 20th Century Fox sequel easily surpassed the $54.8 million opening to 2011's "Rise of the Planet of the Apes," the reboot of the fabled chimp franchise.

In a summer heavy on hype but thin on quality, "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" has proven to be one of the few hits that combined both spectacle and substance. Directed by Matt Reeves ("Cloverfield"), the 3-D "Dawn" has drawn enthusiasm from critics and moviegoers alike, particularly for the motion-capture performance by Andy Serkis as the film's lead ape, Caesar. In the film, Caesar's tribe suspiciously encounters a colony of surviving humans on a planet overrun by intelligent apes.

"When you get the kind of reviews we got and the audience actually agrees, it's the kind of rare thing where critics and audiences come together and say this is a great movie," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution at Fox.

A sequel to be directed by Reeves is already in the works to further extend the franchise that first began with 1968's "Planet of the Apes," based on Pierre Boulle's French novel. Four movies followed in the 1970s, as well as a failed 2001 reboot by Tim Burton.

But "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" will easily dwarf previous installments. It added $31.1 million overseas from 26 markets, for a global opening gross of $104.1 million.



AP

This photo released by Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation shows Andy Serkis as Caesar in a scene from the film, "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes."

"If every summer movie had this kind of release, that would be amazing," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak, praising the film's intelligence, entertainment value and marketing. "It combines all the elements of what a smart summer film should be."

After two weeks on top, the Michael Bay action sequel "Transformers: Age of Extinction" slid to second with $16.5 million. Its three-week domestic total is now $209 million for Paramount. The Melissa McCarthy comedy "Tammy" came in third with $12.9 million. Though bad reviews have dampened the response to McCarthy's latest, the relatively low-budget release has made $57.4 million for Warner Bros. in two weeks.

The big opening for "Dawn" helped give the summer box office a shot in the arm, but it wasn't enough to stop an overall downward trend. The weekend's box office was down nearly 24 percent from the corresponding weekend last year, according to Rentrak. The summer overall is down 20 percent from last year, which was a record season for Hollywood.

The thinness of the summer schedule is a big reason for the drop. Whereas last year had multiple big-budget releases jockeying for position against each other, many weekends this summer have had little blockbuster competition. Last year's same weekend featured the openings of "Grown Ups 2" and "Pacific Rim," in addition to recent holdovers like "Despicable Me 2" and "The Heat."

Instead, the most notable other new release this weekend was Richard Linklater's "Boyhood," an independent film Linklater shot over 12 years to capture the natural aging of his cast. One of the most acclaimed films of the year, the IFC Films release opened in five theaters for a robust $76,000 per-screen average.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released on Monday.

1. **"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes,"** $73 million. ($31.1 million international.)
2. **"Transformers: Age of Extinction,"** $16.5 million ($102 million international).
3. **"Tammy,"** $12.9 million.
4. **"22 Jump Street,"** $6.7 million ($6.3 million international).
5. "How to Train Your Dragon 2," $5.9 million ($34.4 million international).
6. **"Earth to Echo,"** $5.5 million.
7. **"Deliver Us From Evil,"** $4.7 million ($1.4 million international).
8. **"Maleficent,"** $4.2 million ($13.4 million international).
9. **"Begin Again,"** $2.9 million ($750,000 international).
10. **"Jersey Boys,"** $2.5 million ($1.8 million international).

Katherine Heigl returns to TV with new NBC series

AP

Katherine Heigl attends the NBC 2014 Summer TCA held at the Beverly Hotel on Sunday, July 13, 2014, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Katherine Heigl is returning to television, with her mother in tow.

She stars on the new fall series "State of Affairs," playing a CIA attache who informs the president on high-level incidents around the world. It's the first TV series for Heigl since she left her Emmy-winning role on "Grey's Anatomy" in 2010 after six seasons.

Heigl's mother, Nancy, is serving as an executive producer on the NBC series debuting in November. She manages her 35-year-old daughter's career and has had similar credits on "One for the Money," "Life as We Know It" and "The Ugly Truth," all starring Heigl.

The notion that Heigl and her mother are difficult on set has followed the actress since "Grey's Anatomy."

"I certainly don't see myself as being difficult. I would never intend to be difficult," she said. "I don't think my mother sees herself as being difficult. I think it's important to everybody to conduct themselves professionally and respectfully and kindly. If I've ever disappointed somebody, it was never intentional."

When her mother was asked about her role on the show, Heigl interjected, "She bakes us cookies."

Nancy Heigl said she and her daughter pitched the series.

"I am her mother for sure, so of course I care about her interests," she said. "But I'm just learning about executive producing. I'm a newcomer to it."

NBC Entertainment president Jennifer Salke described Nancy Heigl as "someone with a strong opinion."

"There have been no problems," Salke said. "She's not been disruptive in any way."

After the session with critics at the summer TV tour, Heigl described the talk about her reputation as "awkward."

"I don't think I really see myself as really being difficult," she said. "How can I prove that to you until you've met me and until you've worked with me?"

She said, laughing, "I think I'm a joy to work with."

After leaving "Grey's Anatomy," Heigl limited her movie roles to be with her family, including husband and singer Josh Kelley and their two adopted daughters.

"I needed that time," she said. "I needed to be a mom and wife and friend and revel with that, and remember what it is I feel so passionate about in this industry."

Stars of politics, sport, music at World Cup final

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Vladimir Putin chatted with Angela Merkel, and David Beckham hugged Pele at the World Cup final on Sunday.

Tom Brady looked on from the VIP seats when his wife Gisele Bundchen brought the trophy on the field before the game.

Mick Jagger and LeBron James were also in the Maracana Stadium to see Germany beat Argentina 1-0 in extra time.

Celebrities rubbed shoulders at the stadium, starting with Shakira singing and Carlos Santana playing guitar during the closing ceremony.

At the final whistle, German chancellor Merkel jumped from her seat and raised both arms in triumph. She warmly embraced the German players as they collected their medals.

Merkel turned to her right and was kissed on both cheeks by Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff.

Russia's President Putin and FIFA President Sepp Blatter were next in line with congratulations.

AP

Shakira performs during the closing ceremony for the soccer World Cup at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, July 13, 2014.

While Putin watched the match settled deep into his chair, to his immediate right International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach was perched attentively forward to see his native Germany play.

And when Rousseff was a few minutes late back for the second half, Putin took his chance to take her seat for an extra conversation with Merkel.

Brady was seated about 10 meters (yards) to Putin's right, though the New England Patriots quarterback was standing and clapping like a regular fan when his wife delivered the trophy pitchside with Carles Puyol, a key player in Spain's 2010 winning team.

Bundchen joined her husband to watch the match in a section with World Cup-winning players and the closing ceremony musicians with their families.

Shakira and Gerard Pique fitted into both camps with the Spain and Barcelona defender carrying their 18-month-old son Milan.

No surprise that Beckham made perhaps the biggest mark with his children.

The former England star, who was famously sent off against Argentina in a 1998 World Cup loss, arrived with his sons Brooklyn, Cruz and Romeo all wearing the South American team's jerseys.

Walsh is ready for good times as 'Bad Judge'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Maybe "Bad Judge" is the wrong title. She's actually a very good judge. Off the job, she's somewhat of a bad girl.

Played by Kate Walsh on this upcoming NBC sitcom, Judge Rebecca Wright is a clear break from the cool, polished Dr. Addison Montgomery she played for eight seasons on "Grey's Anatomy" and its spinoff, "Private Practice."

"She's a party girl," Walsh said, "and she happens to be really, really good at her job."

On a panel Sunday at the summer TV critics' meeting, Walsh argued that Wright's riotously let-her-hair-down style whenever she's off the bench is, in part, just her form of release from the pressures of her job.

She's the kind of woman "that we love to watch do things that we don't necessarily think the people in their position should do," added executive producer Anne Heche (who doesn't appear in the show).

"If I could, I would prefer `Bad-Ass Judge,'" joked fellow executive producer Liz Brixius (whose credits include Showtime's "Nurse Jackie," which stars Edie Falco as a "bad" nurse).

Walsh recalled TV's beloved Dr. Gregory House, a world-class physician with a tangled private life: "You were never waiting for that guy to get married and have kids. `I just wish he would settle down'—you never had that wish for him!"

Walsh seeks equal justice from viewers for her freewheeling female judge.

"Bad Judge" premieres Oct. 2.

JWoww of 'Jersey Shore' welcomes daughter Meilani

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—JWoww from "Jersey Shore" is a mom.

MTV officials say Jenni Farley welcomed her first child, daughter Meilani Alexandra Mathews, early Sunday afternoon in New Jersey. She weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces.

A representative for Farley says she and her daughter are doing well. The child's father is Farley's fiance, Roger Mathews.

The 28-year-old Farley rose to fame on the MTV reality series "Jersey Shore," which followed the boozy exploits of hard-partying 20-somethings at a shore house.

She went on to star in a spinoff show, "Snooki & JWoww," with her close friend and "Jersey Shore" cast mate, Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi.

Rachel Dratch stars in laugh-fest 'Tail!Spin!'

NEW YORK (AP)—Public servants who venture downtown this fall may leave blushing: A show that highlights four big political sex scandals is coming back.

"Tail! Spin!"—the hit of the 2012 New York International Fringe Festival—will begin performances on Sept. 18 at Culture Project starring "Saturday Night Live" alumna Rachel Dratch. Opening night is slated for Oct. 1.

Dratch

The show skewers former Idaho Sen. Larry Craig, onetime New York Rep. Andrew Weiner, ex-Rep. Mark Foley from Florida, and former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford. All were ensnared in sex scandals and initially feigned innocence.

The script—by Mario Correa, a co-host of Entertainment Weekly's daily "News & Notes" program on SiriusXM—uses only the public comments, tweets, statements, instant messages, e-mails, and text messages from the disgraced politicians.

Outage: Monorail train evacuated at Disney in Fla.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—A Walt Disney World spokeswoman says dozens of passengers were safely evacuated from a monorail train halted by a power outage during bad weather at its central Florida amusement complex. She says no one was hurt.

Spokeswoman Jacquee Wahler told The Associated Press there were thunderstorms around Walt Disney World when the elevated train stopped Sunday afternoon. She says a mechanized lift helped get passengers down.

"Due to weather, there was a power outage on the monorail. There's currently one train on the system without power and all the guests are now off the train," she said in a subsequent emailed update.

Son who idolizes dad must eventually be told his crime

DEAR ABBY: I am a mother of four. My oldest son, "Jeff," is from a previous marriage. My ex was convicted of child molestation, involving his daughter from a previous relationship.

Jeff is now 11. He has had very few unsupervised visitations with his dad over the last few years and is always talking about how great a guy he is. I have tried to explain that his father has done "inappropriate things" that got him in trouble with the law, which is why he can't have contact with his sister.

Instead of trusting my judgment for having moved several states away, Jeff always tells me about how he wants to go live with his dad when he's 18. Being "Big Bad Mama" is no fun. The once-a-year gifts from his father trump any nice things my husband or I provide for Jeff. How can I explain to my son that I am only looking out for his best interests, and that he will never live with his dad?

BIG BAD MAMA IN GEORGIA

DEAR MAMA: I don't know how mature your son is, but most 11-year-old boys idolize their fathers. Jeff has his father on a pedestal because he sees him only rarely, and has no concept of what the reality of living with him would be.

At some point your son will need to know EXACTLY what his father did that got him into trouble—without your glossing over it using the vague description of "inappropriate behavior." When that conversation happens, he should already understand the concept of boundaries and what taking advantage of a child really means.

If I were in your position, I would consult a licensed psychotherapist or social worker for input before trying to explain this to Jeff, because the news is going to be shocking. However, if your son still wants to live with his birth father when he's 18, I don't think there is anything you can do to prevent it.

■ ■ ■ ■

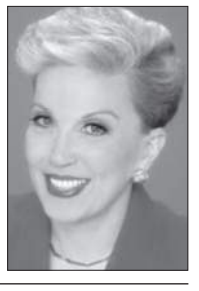
DEAR ABBY: I raised my children to stay with me when we were in a store. They didn't touch things displayed on the shelves because the items were not theirs and we weren't going to purchase them. We didn't have cellphones when my children grew up. However, even now I never remove mine from my purse while I'm in a store.

Is there a nice way to tell other shoppers to put their phones away and pay attention to their children while shopping, and suggest that it might not be safe for their kids to run through the aisles or roll canned goods down them? I am not sure about their children's safety, but I'm positive it isn't safe for me when their children are acting this way.

MEME IN THE WEST

DEAR MEME: No, I don't think there is. You appear to be part of a generation that had the time (or took the time) to teach these things to their kids.

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

I agree that children should be taught to respect the property of others and to ask before touching it. I also agree that leaving items in an aisle could be dangerous to shoppers whose attention may be fixed on the store shelves instead of the floor.

But because so many parents today seem to have "forgotten" to convey these important lessons, then caveat emptor—but in this case, let the shopper beware.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

TOO BAD YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK TO THE JURASSIC WITH ME. AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS DOESN'T COME ALONG EVERY DAY, YOU KNOW.
THE LESS OFTEN, THE BETTER, IS WHAT I SAY.
WE'RE JUST GOING ON A PHOTO SAFARI! WHEN WE COME BACK WITH REAL DINOSAUR PHOTOS, WE'LL GET RICH!
YOU CAN DROP THE "WE" STUFF. I'M NOT GOING.
OK, WELL, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO EAT ALL THESE GREAT SNACKS MYSELF THEN.
SNACKS? WHAT KIND OF SNACKS? ARE THEY GOOD SNACKS? HOW MANY SNACKS DID YOU BRING??
NEVER MIND! YOU SAID YOU'RE NOT GOING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D LET YOU GET A TATTOO, DID YOU?
WHAT? NOT ME! YOU!
ME?
YEAH! THEY'RE COOL!
CLAYTON, I'M NOT A "RAD DUDE."
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
WELL, FOR STARTERS, HE JUST SAID "RAD DUDE."
I KNOW. I WAS CHALKING IT UP TO HIS ADVANCED AGE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

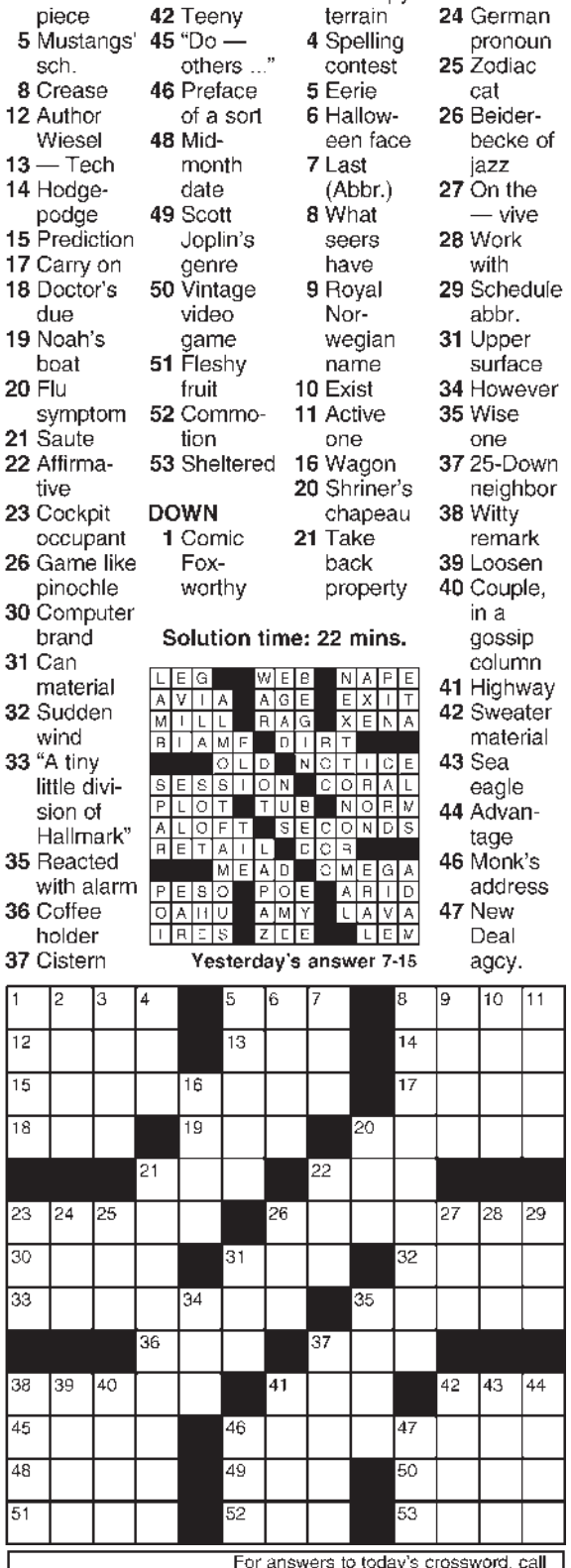
ACROSS
1 Door-frame piece
5 Mustangs' sch.
8 Crease
12 Author Wiesel
13 — Tech
14 Hodge-podge
15 Prediction
17 Carry on
18 Doctor's due
19 Noah's boat
20 Flu symptom
21 Saute
22 Affirmative
23 Cockpit occupant
26 Game like pinochle
30 Computer brand
31 Can material
32 Sudden wind
33 "A tiny little division of Hallmark"
35 Reacted with alarm
36 Coffee holder
37 Cistern
38 Coverlet
41 Tractor-trailer
42 Teeny
45 "Do — others ..."
46 Preface of a sort
48 Mid-month date
49 Scott Joplin's genre
50 Vintage video game
51 Fleshy fruit
52 Commotion
53 Sheltered

DOWN
1 Comic Fox-worthy
2 Burn remedy
3 Swampy terrain
4 Spelling contest
5 Eerie
6 Hallow-een face
7 Last (Abbr.)
8 What seers have
9 Royal Norwegian name
10 Exist
11 Active one
16 Wagon
20 Shriner's chapeau
21 Take back property
22 Longing
23 — de deux
24 German pronoun
25 Zodiac cat
26 Beiderbecke of jazz
27 On the — vive
28 Work with
29 Schedule abbr.
31 Upper surface
34 However
35 Wise one
37 25-Down neighbor
38 Witty remark
39 Loosen
40 Couple, in a gossip column
41 Highway
42 Sweater material
43 Sea eagle
44 Advantage
46 Monk's address
47 New Deal agcy.

Solution time: 22 mins.

L	E	G			W	E	B		N	A	P	E
A	V	I	A		A	G	E		E	X	I	T
M	I	L	L		R	A	G		X	E	N	A
B	I	A	M	F		D	I	R	T			
			O	L	D		N	O	T	I	C	E
S	E	S	S	I	O	N		C	O	R	A	L
P	L	O	T		T	U	B		N	O	R	M
A	L	O	F	T		S	E	C	O	N	D	S
R	E	T	A	I	L		C	R				
			M	E	A	D		C	M	E	G	A
P	E	S	O		P	O	E		A	R	I	D
O	A	I	U		A	M	Y		L	A	V	A
I	R	E	S		Z	E	E			L	E	M

Yesterday's answer 7-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Diane Kruger, 38; Brian Austin Green, 41; Jason Bonham, 48; Forest Whitaker, 53.

Happy Birthday: Jump into action, take the initiative and bask in the limelight for a change. Taking charge will enable you to mold the way you want things to unfold around you and within the relationships that mean the most to you. Being gracious will be the key to getting the acknowledgment you've been looking for and the support you need to carry on. Your numbers are 4, 11, 19, 24, 32, 40, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Find a creative way to express your feelings and what you expect of the people you deal with today. Find solutions rather than let your temper flare up. Avoid making a hasty decision regarding a personal relationship. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll have insight when it comes to finding solutions and helping others. Before making any changes at home, try to get the green light from anyone who may be affected by your plans. Your communication skills will help you get your way. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Concentrate on whatever tasks or responsibilities you have in order to avoid conflicts or complaints. Someone will mislead you regarding a job or a change that will influence your position. Do your own fact-finding to avoid making a costly mistake. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Try doing things differently. Consider making a unique change to where or how you currently live. You can make things happen if you take the initiative. New beginnings will give you greater insight into the possibilities that await you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You need to change your routine or find a new way to motivate and inspire yourself to take charge of your life. Don't be too eager to follow what others do. Find your own way and invest in yourself. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look for ways to help out in your community or to contribute to a cause or concern. A chance to partner with someone unique will open your mind to all sorts of ideas that you can put into motion. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't take on more than you can handle. Someone will make you look bad if you are lazy. Make changes that will help improve your skills. Problems with partners must not be allowed to escalate into an argument you will regret. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make positive changes at home that will add to your comfort and give you a space to develop some of your ideas. A financial or legal matter will turn in your favor, and money will come from an unexpected source. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't be fooled by what others tell you. Someone will use emotional manipulation to persuade you to get involved in something that isn't right for you. Focus inward and make personal improvements that don't involve others. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Accidents, minor mishaps and unexpected last-minute changes will disrupt your day. Plan to take it easy and avoid letting anyone goad you into an argument or situation that is dubious or unsafe. Focus on love and romance. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make changes that will help you advance. Experiment with ideas and develop skills that will help you raise your profile and your earning potential. Socialize with people who have something to offer, and you will find out valuable information. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take care of personal business, settlements, legalities and financial or medical matters that need your attention. Network, and you will find a window of opportunity that is worth exploring. Your creative imagination will be on target. Follow through with your plans. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, sensitive and charming. You are dedicated and intuitive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	5	3				9	
	6				4			
7			2			6		
3		6					8	
			7	4	9			
	1					5		4
		1			5			9
			1				7	
	2				8	4	6	

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	1	8	9	5	6	7	3	2
3	5	7	1	2	8	6	4	9
6	2	9	4	7	3	1	8	5
1	8	3	7	6	5	9	2	4
2	9	6	3	1	4	5	7	8
7	4	5	2	8	9	3	1	6
5	3	2	8	9	1	4	6	7
9	7	4	6	3	2	8	5	1
8	6	1	5	4	7	2	9	3

Difficulty Level ★ 7/1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BUNDLES Solution: 6 letters

S	H	S	H	C	N	U	B	R	O	C	C	O	L	I
C	E	A	W	C	Y	E	N	F	O	L	D	S	D	N
L	A	V	I	O	A	B	A	G	S	N	N	E	O	S
U	A	R	E	R	R	N	A	B	A	A	A	T	O	U
S	N	R	T	R	O	R	I	B	L	S	N	S	W	R
T	A	L	O	S	A	T	A	P	S	A	(P)	R	N	A
E	N	A	H	L	E	L	C	E	S	S	N	(I)	O	N
R	A	E	R	C	L	V	L	U	E	E	Y	K	(L)	C
A	B	D	M	O	T	B	G	G	D	S	E	T	E	(E)
L	E	G	O	T	A	A	A	R	A	N	N	E	S	T
U	R	N	R	T	R	G	B	V	O	B	O	K	E	W
C	S	E	E	A	T	O	I	S	I	U	M	C	L	I
S	A	G	P	R	P	N	S	N	O	T	P	U	A	G
A	E	S	O	A	G	E	D	S	K	O	O	B	S	S
V	A	M	H	S	P	Y	S	P	A	R	W	I	R	E

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Arrows, Asparagus, Assortment, Baby, Bags, Balloons, Banana, Band, Batch, Bind, Blanket, Books, Broccoli, Bucket, Bunch, Carts, Cash, Cluster, Conductor, Corn, Deal, Energy, Enfold, Grapes, Group, Hair, Ideas, Insurance, Money, Mortgages, Paper, Pile, Plans, Roll, Sales, Savings, Sets, Several, Spinach, Tons, Twigs, Vascular, Vegetables, Wire, Wood, Wraps

Yesterday's Answer: Nintendo

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 37, 38 or 39** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: More often than not

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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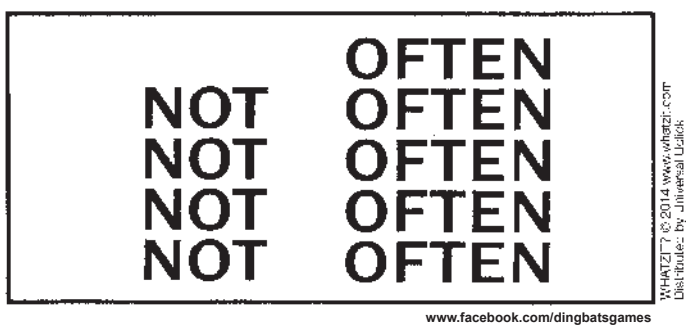
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 - ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTSMAN

College degree required with (5) years minimum experience as an architectural draftsman in a construction firm. Must have strong knowledge in analysis of local building codes, create rough plans that show foundations, reinforcement, structures and other elements of design. Must be computer literate with latest computer software including computer-aided drafting (CAD) and have thorough knowledge in preparing as-built and shop drawings.

Interested qualified applicants submit complete application or resume and latest police clearance via e-mail at saipan@aicconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marinas, Inc. PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950.
Closing date: July 16, 2014

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

(01) Healthcare Clinic System Manager
- A minimum of two to four years of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience.
- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintain all of company's computer systems to include computer hardware, computer software, and computer network and advance server skills.
- Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software.
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- Building maintenance repair, electronic record and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with Medicare and Medicaid standards.
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned.

(02) Clinic/Yard Maintenance
- Preferred skills and experience
- Building construction/renovation experience
- Must be experience in solar maintenance PV models
- Must be flexible with time schedule
- Must have a valid driver's license

(01) Ultrasound/X-Ray Technician
- Must be over five years experience in electronic health and practice partner records.
- Experience/knowledge with practice partner software in electronic health records usage.
- Must be a bachelor of science in Radiologic Technology.
- Licensed by the Medical Profession Licensing Board, CNMI
- At least five years or more experience or related field

(02) Registered Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN licensing
- At least two to five years experience
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in nursing
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at Saipan Health Clinic located at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on 07/25/2014 at 4:00p.m. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Bookkeeper
- With 5 years minimum experience
- Must have strong communications skills and can work on flexible hours without supervision
- Knowledge in on-line marketing preferred

Please contact (670) 235-1004
from 1:00pm – 5:00pm
JOCELYN MONES TAITANO
Accounting Services and On-line Marketing

Sams' Sons, Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Operation Manager
4-5yrs experience. Salary: $5.55-$6.00/hr

All interested applicants may send resume to ming@pacifictacticalsupply.com

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Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
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Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **$600**/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **$550**/month

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
$450/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft **$500**/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
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(1) Operations Manager $10.00/hr. Bachelor's degree and at least 5 yrs experience in construction industry required.

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(1) General/Operation Manager. Minimum 4 years exp. Wood Village Saipan, Inc. Contact Juan Inos at 287-4667.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Car Salesperson
- At least one year experience in sales preferably selling cars
- Documentation skills & computer literate
- Must have valid driver's license with clean record
- Can drive automatic & manual transmission vehicle
- Customer focus and can work with minimal supervision

All interested applicants may send resume to dpacarmart@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Cheer Dragon Leasing Corporation has an open vacancy for skydiving operation on the following position:

SKYDIVING INSTRUCTOR:
An applicant must have skydiving experience of no less than 2000 tandem jumps, plus:
- experience in operating in windy and turbulent conditions on restricted landing zones;
- knowledge and skills in parachute packing;
- to hold the USPA D-License or higher or its foreign equivalent;
- to hold the USPA Tandem Instructor rating, its foreign equivalent or the Manufacturer Type Endorsement;
- to hold US FAA III Class Medical;
- experience in aerial photography;
- skills in foreign language is a plus

Inquiries and CV may be forwarded via e-mail to skydivemarianas @rocketmail.com

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Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY INC.

(04) Hemodialysis Technician
- Certificate from a Junior College/Technical School in healthcare
- Attend a hemodialysis training program
- Three year hemodialysis experience preferred
- Must be CCHT certified by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission
- English Language skills – proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-Service train with Baxter Phoenix Machine
- Experience with Ameriwater Bicarbonate distribution system
- Flexible with time schedule

(01) Licensed Practical Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX-LPN and current CNMI LPN License
- Attend a hemodialysis training program
- One to four years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skills – proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-service train with Baxter Phoenix Machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on Thursday, July 31, 2014 by 4:00pm. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2905 ext. 124.

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(04) REGISTERED NURSE
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and Current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to five years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) – Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system
- Must be flexible with time schedule

(04) BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR
- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction with solectria inverter experience is a must
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and partitions
- Maintains and repairs various equipment
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and building trades areas
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance/plumbing and construction is required
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Must have a valid driver's license

(02) WATER TREATMENT TECHNICIAN
- Must be able to perform task which may at first glance not appear difficult but required a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain system
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment and distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities
- Be familiar with safety and life safety policies
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency text for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II
- Understand the plumbing code and plumbing techniques
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with pressure vessels
- Bea able to demonstrate proper plumbing techniques for working with the pressure vessels
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing techniques especially when working with pvc
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned

(02) COMMERCIAL CLEANER
- Operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, such as vacuums, polishers, buffers, etc
- Maintain facility in a sanitary and infection-fee condition through washing, cleaning and replacement of equipment and furnishings
- Requires working in damp, dusty and dirty areas. Must clean up human waste and other body fluids, as required
- Responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials
- Must handle various cleaning solvents and chemicals that is required by Medicare
- Damp dust furniture, light fixtures, window, etc
- Empty trash containers daily
- Wet mop floors and bathrooms daily. Damp mop all corridor floors, lobby and others daily
- Report any needed repairs immediately
- Check entire area for spills, water, etc., periodically, especially in patients' areas and lobby
- Use safety precautions in all housekeeping services
- Is required to clean employee's house prior to and post occupancy
- Is required to maintain and clean in an orderly manner at Business, Dr.'s, Accounting, Dietician, and Clinic Manager's Offices
- Must be able to work flexible hours
- Must have own transportation

Interested applicants must submit application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan.
Deadline to submit application will be on 8/11/2014 at 4:00pm. For more information,
please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DPW-14-RFP-003

WASTE-TO-ENERGY PROGRAM

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals for the Waste to Energy Program, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §70-30.3-210 (competitive sealed proposals) of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after July 1, 2014 at the Department of Public Works, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950. A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Works, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Conference Room on July 18, 2014. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, Saipan, or fax to (670) 234-9828 no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, August 8, 2014.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW-14-RFP-003."** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (6) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, August 13, 2014.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, August 13, 2014, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and six (6) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 13, 2014 and must be received no later August 22, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of proposal.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section **70-30.3-245** and must be able to obtain a CNMI Business License prior to contract award.

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-210 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1) Experience in waste-to-energy programs	**25%**
2) Proposed power production system	**25%**
3) Financial capacity of proposer	**20%**
4) Proposed financial structure included cost	**30%**

Price is a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit proposals. Qualification and experience are more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer. As proposals become more equal in qualifications and experiences, the important of price will increase.

Award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTLITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a business meeting at **9:00 a.m. on July 18, 2014 at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Building**, Saipan, to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Ms. Rose Ada-Hocog, who serves as the Commission's administrative assistant at 670-989-1974.

AGENDA

1. **Administrative matters:**
   a. Call to order; approval of agenda; determination of quorum
   b. Approval of minutes of April 2, 2014 business meeting

2. **Docket 13-01: CUC Electric Division**

   Deliberation on Hearing Examiner's June 13, 2014 report and docket record.

3. **Other business**

4. **Public comments**

Mets earn three-game sweep over Marlins

NEW YORK (AP)—Jacob deGrom hit a tie-breaking single and again shut down the Marlins with seven impressive innings, and David Wright doubled twice and drove in two runs as the New York Mets completed a three-game sweep of Miami with a 9-1 victory on Sunday.

Wright, Curtis Granderson and Juan Lagares each had RBI doubles, and Chris Young added a sacrifice fly for New York in its eighth win on a 10-game homestand heading into the All-Star break.

New York jumped over the Marlins, losers of four straight, and into third place in the NL East at 45-50.

DeGrom (3-5), who pitched seven innings in Miami for his first big league victory on June 21, struck out eight and allowing five hits and a run.

DeGrom got his first big league RBI after Brad Hand (0-2) intentionally walked Ruben Tejada to face the lanky former college shortstop. DeGrom lined a single to center for a 2-1 lead.

AP

New York Mets first baseman Lucas Duda (21) takes the throw to the bag ahead of Miami Marlins' Henderson Alvarez (37) for an out in the third inning of a baseball game, Friday, July 11, 2014, in New York.

Nationals 10, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Jayson Werth homered and drove in four runs, and Tanner Roark pitched seven strong innings to lead Washington over Philadelphia.

Ryan Zimmerman also went deep and had two RBIs, Ian Desmond knocked in two runs, and Anthony Rendon had three hits and an RBI for Washington, which won the last two games of the series and stayed tied with Atlanta atop the NL East entering the All-Star break.

Philadelphia scored two unearned runs off Aaron Barrett in the ninth to end with three runs or fewer for the 49th time this season.

Roark (8-6) allowed a run and four hits. He struck out six and walked none.

The Phillies dropped to 8-41 overall and 2-29 in their last 31 games when failing to score four runs. Cody Asche had two doubles and an RBI for Philadelphia, which fell 10 games behind Washington.

Braves 10, Cubs 7

In Chicago, Chris Johnson had three hits, including his third homer in two days, as Atlanta beat the Chicago Cubs to stay in a virtual tie with Washington for first place in the NL East.

Although even in terms of games back, the Braves are one percentage point behind the Nationals. Atlanta (52-43) has won three of four since a four-game losing streak.

Johnson hit a long drive to straightaway center field for a three-run shot in a four-run third inning against Travis Wood (7-8).

Atlanta played without struggling second baseman Dan Uggla, who was suspended by the team for the final game before the All-Star break.

Red Sox 11, Astros 0

In Houston, Clay Buchholz allowed three hits and struck out a career-high 12 in his fifth career shutout in Boston's rout of Houston.

Brock Holt had a career-best five hits, including a leadoff homer, to help the Red Sox to their fourth victory in five games heading into the All-Star break.

All of the hits Buchholz (4-5) allowed were singles, and he didn't walk a batter in his first shutout since June 2, 2013, against the Yankees.

Chris Carter extended his career-high hitting streak to nine games with a single with one out in the fourth. Buchholz sailed through the rest of the game, retiring his last 17 batters.

Indians 3, White Sox 2

In Cleveland, Yan Gomes' two-run homer in the eighth inning gave Cleveland a win over the Chicago White Sox.

Gomes drove in all three Cleveland runs. His home run to right off Javy Guerra (0-2) came after the White Sox scored two runs in top of the inning to take a 2-1 lead.

Nick Swisher led off with a single before Gomes, who also had an RBI single in the second, hit a 1-1 pitch into Chicago's bullpen.

Bryan Shaw (4-1) allowed two runs in the top of the eighth. Cody Allen pitched the ninth for his 12th save, striking out the final two hitters.

Rays 3, Blue Jays 0

In St. Petersburgh, All-Star David Price scattered five hits in eight-plus innings to win his fourth consecutive start as Tampa Bay beat Toronto.

Price (9-7), who had his start pushed back one day because of a stomach virus, struck out five and walked one. The lefthander was pulled after giving up a leadoff single in the ninth to Melky Cabrera.

Because Price pitched on Sunday, he is ineligible to play in the All-Star game Tuesday night in Minnesota.

The Rays, who have won 11 of 15, got RBI singles from Logan Forsythe and Jose Molina. Jake McGee got three outs for his seventh save.

Royals 5, Tigers 2

In Kansas City, Eric Hosmer's RBI double capped a five-run seventh inning as Kansas City avoided a four-game sweep with a victory over Detroit.

Four of the runs were charged to Justin Verlander (8-8), who started the inning with a two-hit shutout but loaded the bases on three straight singles.

The come-from-behind win still leaves the second-place Royals 6½ games behind the Tigers in the AL Central.

Since June 18 when K.C. beat the Tigers for their 10th straight win and went a season-best seven games over .500, the Royals have gone 9-14 while the Tigers went 17-6.

Angels 10, Rangers 7

In Arlington, Mike Trout doubled twice and drove in four runs as the Los Angeles Angels beat Texas and took a five-game winning streak into the All-Star break.

Texas (38-57) lost its eighth in a row and has the worst record in the majors.

Trout, who will start the All-Star game in the AL outfield, sent three runs home by blooping a two-out double in the second inning. He broke a 4-all tie with a double in the fourth.

The Angels, a major league-best 26-9 since June 6, swept a four-game series against Texas for the first time in their history.

Tyler Skaggs (5-5) left after giving up two singles to start the sixth.

Reds 6, Pirates 2

In Cincinnati, Kris Negron hit his first career home run, and All-Star Todd Frazier added a two-run shot as Cincinnati rolled into the break with a win against Pittsburgh.

Negron, called up from Triple-A Louisville on Thursday for his first appearance in the majors since playing four games in 2012, celebrated his first major league start with a three-run homer off Francisco Liriano (1-7) in the second inning. The RBIs were also the first of his career, and the hit was his second.

Frazier homered on the first pitch from Vance Worley in the sixth to send the Pirates to a 2-5 mark on their trip.

Brewers 11, Cardinals 2

In Milwaukee, Elian Herrera got five hits while filling in for mourning shortstop Jean Segura as Milwaukee ended a seven-game losing streak by routing St. Louis.

The Brewers tied a season high with 19 hits and took a one-game lead over St. Louis in the NL Central at the All-Star break.

Herrera was called up from the minors Saturday when Segura was put on the bereavement list after the death of his 9-month-old son. Herrera went 5 for 5 with a double and scored three runs.

Wily Peralta (10-6) tossed seven strong innings for the win. A frustrated Carlos Martinez (2-4) allowed four runs in four innings.

Giants 8, Diamondbacks 4

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner became the first pitcher in 48 years to hit two grand slams in a season, and Buster Posey also hit a slam that boosted San Francisco over Arizona.

Posey and Bumgarner became the first pitcher-catcher combination in major league history to hit grand slams in the same game.

A double by Bumgarner helped set up Posey's slam in the fifth. Bumgarner homered the next inning — he also hit a slam on April 11 against Colorado.

The last pitcher to launch two slams in a season was Tony Cloninger, who hit both in the same game for Atlanta on July 3, 1966, against the Giants.

Athletics 4, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Sonny Gray limited Seattle to six hits and one unearned run in Oakland's victory.

Gray (10-3) earned his 10th victory and Sean Doolittle recorded the final four outs for his 14th save.

After managing just one hit off Seattle starter Chris Young through four innings, the Athletics broke through in the fifth. Brandon Moss hit his 21st home run to extend the A's lead to 3-1 in the sixth.

Young (8-6) allowed three runs and five hits with just one walk and two strikeouts for Seattle.

Nick Punto added a solo homer off Joe Beimel in the ninth for the Athletics.

Dodgers 1, Padres 0

In Los Angeles, Ryu Hyun-jin struck out 10 and outpitched first-time All-Star Tyson Ross, and Yasiel Puig singled home the only run in the Los Angeles Dodgers' win over San Diego.

A day after beating the Padres 1-0, the Dodgers did it again and took a one-game lead over San Francisco in the NL West into the All-Star break.

Puig struck out his first two times up, then singled home Dee Gordon in the sixth inning.

Ryu (10-5) gave up two hits in six innings without a walk.

Kenley Jansen struggled to get his 27th save, striking out Jake Goebbert and pinch-hitter Seth Smith with runners at the corners.

Ross (7-10) gave up six hits in seven innings, striking out nine and walking one.

Twins 13, Rockies 5

In Denver, Brian Dozier cranked up for the Home Run Derby at the All-Star game with two homers as Minnesota beat Colorado.

Dozier hit a solo homer in the eighth and added a three-run shot an inning later for his first career multihomer game.

Late fill-in Chris Parmelee ignited a five-run first inning for the Twins with a two-run single. He replaced outfielder Oswaldo Arcia, who was scratched with the flu.

Hughes (10-5) earned his 10th win despite allowing five runs and 10 hits in five innings.

Brett Anderson (0-3) was rusty in his first outing since April as he allowed six runs—five earned—in five innings.

Orioles 3, Yankees 1

In Baltimore, Chris Davis hit a two-run homer to back a strong pitching effort by Kevin Gausman as the Baltimore Orioles beat the New York Yankees in a game called by rain after 4 1/2 innings.

The Orioles scored all their runs in the fourth inning and Gausman (4-2) got three straight outs in the fifth. After Steve Pearce drew a walk in the bottom half, the rain came. The game was finally called after a delay of 2 hours, 22 minutes.

Gausman allowed four hits, struck out two and walked none in his first major league complete game.

Brett Gardner hit a leadoff homer for New York, but the Yankees didn't get a runner past first base the rest of the way. New York starter Chase Whitley (4-3) gave up three runs and five hits in 3 2-3 innings.

Pau Gasol tweets he's joining Chicago Bulls

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Chicago Bulls recovered quickly after losing out on Carmelo Anthony in free agency, landing Los Angeles Lakers big man Pau Gasol to bolster the team's offense.

Gasol announced on his verified Twitter account on Saturday evening that he reached agreement with the Bulls.

''It hasn't been easy,'' Gasol tweeted. ''After meditating it a lot I've chosen to play with the Chicago Bulls. Looking forward to this new chapter of my career.''

The Spaniard is one of the NBA's most offensively gifted and versatile big men, and he has long been one of Kobe Bryant's favorite teammates with the Lakers. Gasol spent the last seven seasons in Los Angeles, teaming with Bryant to win two championships and reach another NBA Finals.

The exact terms of his agreement with the Bulls were not immediately clear. The Bulls and Lakers had reportedly been discussing sign-and-trade options earlier in the day Saturday, but no official announcement from either team had been made.

The 7-foot Gasol is a four-time All-Star and averaged 17.4 points and 9.7 rebounds in 60 games last season with Los Angeles, and he brings some sorely needed offensive punch to the Bulls frontcourt.

Even with Derrick Rose expected to be ready to start next season after missing most of the last two years with knee injuries, the Bulls were still very much in the hunt for some offensive help for one of the most hard-nosed defensive teams in the league.

With Rose out last season, Tom Thibodeau's group still managed to win 48 games and make the playoffs for the sixth straight season thanks largely to a defense led by Joakim Noah up front and Jimmy Butler on the perimeter. But scoring proved to be very difficult at times, and the Bulls lost to the Washington Wizards in five games of their first-round series.

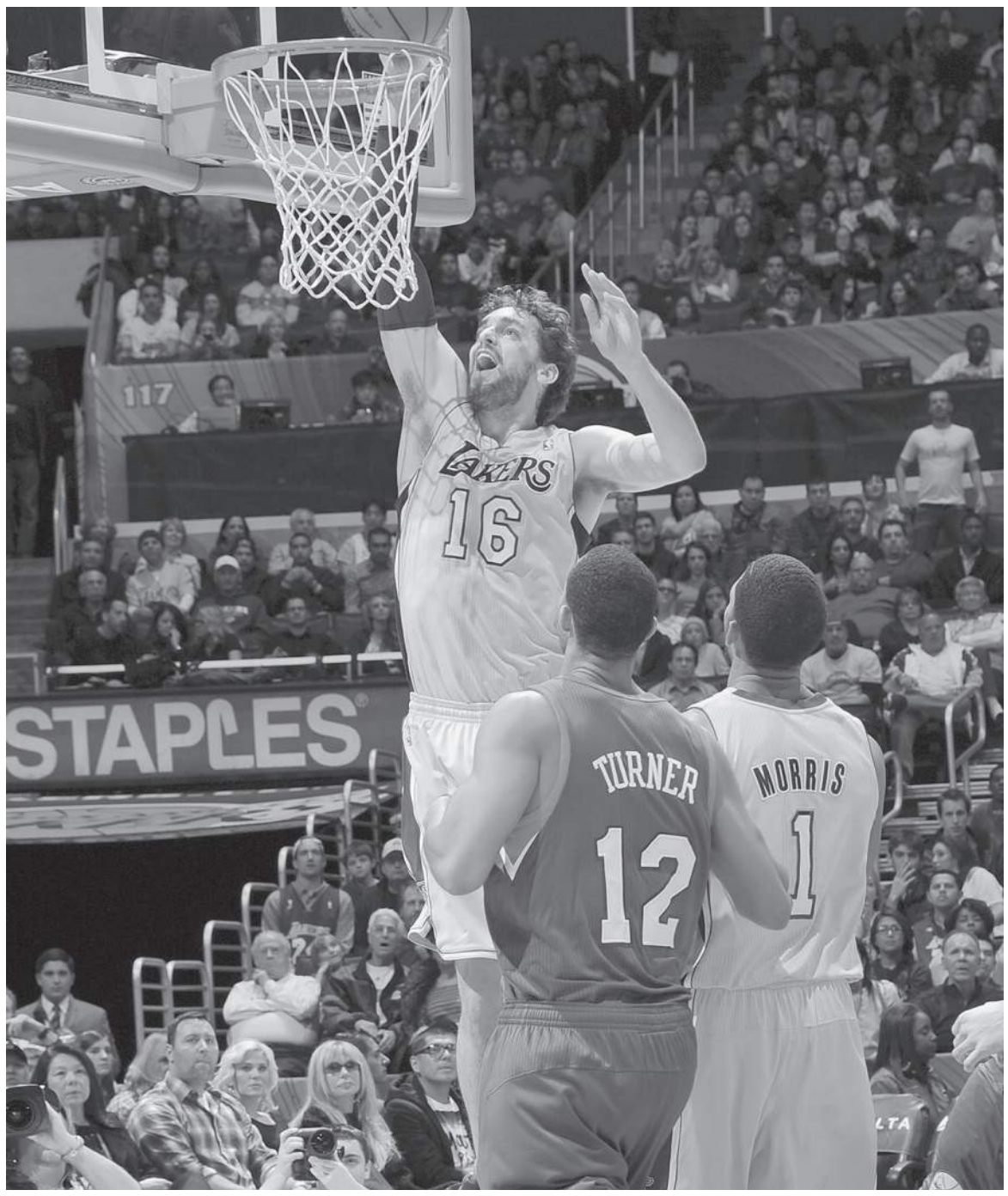
That's why they were so hot after Anthony, perhaps the best pure scorer in the game. The Bulls felt he would be a perfect fit to be surrounded by a defensive-minded supporting cast. But as reports swirled that Anthony would remain with the Knicks, the Bulls didn't waste any time moving on.

Now Gasol will team with Noah, a very good passer in the high post, in a formidable frontcourt tandem.

It's also the end of an era for Gasol and the Lakers. His arrival in a trade from Memphis helped quell Bryant's dissatisfaction with the direction of the franchise after owner Jerry Buss decided to move Shaquille O'Neal and go forward with Bryant as the unquestioned face of the franchise.

He arrived in the middle of the 2007-08 season and helped the Lakers reach the finals after a three-season absence. They lost to the Boston Celtics that time, but rebounded to win the next two championships.

Gasol was the subject of trade rumors for much of his time in Los Angeles but always had the steadfast backing of Bryant. But Gasol just turned 34, battled foot injuries last season and clashed with coach Mike D'Antoni several times. D'Antoni is gone, but the Lakers are trying to preserve their long-term salary cap flexibility to make a run at another big star next summer, so bringing the aging big man back was not considered a high priority.



AP

Pau Gasol, in this file photo dunks during the Lakers' game against the Sixers, announced on his verified Twitter account on Saturday evening that he reached an agreement with the Bulls.

Tale of 2 Tonys at Tour de France 9th stage

MULHOUSE, France (AP)—On a day local Roman Catholics were celebrating the feast of Saint Anthony, two other Tonys had their own reason to celebrate in the Tour de France.

Germany's Tony Martin took the stage win Sunday, and France's Tony Gallopin took the yellow jersey during an up-and-down Stage 9 in the eastern Vosges mountains.

Martin, a three-time world champion known more for time-trial dominance, showed that he could climb too; Italy's Vincenzo Nibali, who has been wearing the leader's yellow jersey, didn't lay a hard enough chase of Gallopin to keep it.

French media - delighted to see the country's first yellow jersey holder since Thomas Voeckler wore it in 2011 - reveled in the fact that Gallopin will lead France's most beloved race on the Bastille Day holiday Monday.

The 29-year-old German, meanwhile, said his stage victory might have been an "omen" for Germany's World Cup ambitions against Argentina—which it turned out to be.

Gallopin, of the Lotto Belisol team, said he'd been plotting a move for the yellow jersey since Stage 5 - when he positioned himself for a challenge because Nibali was unlikely to want to hold it all the way to Paris on July 27, when the race ends.

It's a lot of pressure to try to carry the leader's shirt so long, through the Alps and Pyrenees ahead.

But Nibali knows that Gallopin is unlikely to make it up the big climbs ahead, and the Italian didn't lose any time against his biggest rivals - highest among them, two-time Tour champion Alberto Contador.

Gallopin, by finishing about 5 minutes ahead of Nibali, easily erased his deficit to the Italian and now leads him by 1:34. Portuguese rider Tiago Machado is third overall, 4:08 back. But, like Gallopin, he is not considered a Tour contender.

"It's with great pride that I will ride on the national holiday day in the yellow jersey," said 26-year-old Gallopin, adding that he feared he may not keep it after an uphill finish at the super-steep Planche des Belles Filles on Monday. "It's a little bit scary, but I will enjoy the day."

"It was always a dream of wearing the yellow jersey," said Gallopin, who finished 2:45 back of solo breakaway leader Martin.

Contador finished safely in the main pack along with Nibali and is 4:08 back in ninth place overall.

They will resume their contest in the toughest stage so far—Monday's 161.5-kilometer (100-mile) trek from Mulhouse to the famed La Planche des Belles Filles, featuring four steep Category 1 climbs. The pack takes its first rest day on Tuesday.

"It was a tough day," Contador said, looking ahead to Monday. "We'll have to decide whether or not we try to attack or ride defensively."

The Tour paid tribute to those who died in the First World War - 1914-18 - by riding along the battlefields where millions died.

Sunday's route took the peloton past a landmark remembering the Battle du Linge in 1915, where some 17,000 French and German soldiers fell in three ferocious months of fighting. The groves and thickets in Le Linge's mountainous pass helped mask lethal sections of barbed wire protecting tight German defensive lines.

Anthony stays with Knicks, Deng to Heat

NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony made his return to the New York Knicks official, while the Miami Heat made a move to reload following the exit of LeBron James by agreeing to a deal with forward Luol Deng in NBA free agency moves on Sunday.

High-scoring Anthony gives team president Phil Jackson the foundation piece he desired in his quest to bring an NBA title to Madison Square Garden for the first time since 1973.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Under NBA salary cap rules, Anthony could sign a five-year contract for as much as $129 million, but he may elect to take less in order to give the Knicks more budget room.

"We are now happy to know that we have the cornerstone of what we envision as a 'team of excellence.'" Jackson said in a statement.

Anthony, who averaged 27.4 points last season for the Knicks was the biggest free agent on the market following Friday's decision by James to return to his roots and sign with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"I am a New York Knick at heart," Anthony said.

Free agent Deng of Britain, who played most of his NBA career with the Chicago Bulls and part of last season with the Cavaliers, will try to help fill the massive void left by the departure of James.

Deng agreed to a $20 million, two-year deal with the Heat, according to multiple reports.

Entering his 11th NBA season, Deng has averaged 16.0 points per game in his career.

The Heat will retain two members of its 'Big Three,' keeping Chris Bosh with a reported five-year, $118 million deal, and working on a new contract for Dwyane Wade.

Pierce to Wizards

Ten-time All-Star Paul Pierce, 36, who played the 15 years of his NBA career with the Boston Celtics, made his second move in as many years by agreeing to a two-year deal with the Washington Wizards, the Washington Post reported.

Pierce, who came to Brooklyn last season along with Kevin Garnett in a trade with the Celtics, agreed to a reported two-year deal for the full mid-level exception worth $10.8 million.

"Welcome the truth @paulpierce34 to DC...#wizkids!!" Wizards point guard John Wall tweeted.

As Pierce steps in, swingman Trevor Ariza leaves Washington for the Houston Rockets for a deal reported to be four years for $32 million.

Lin to Lakers

The Lakers, meanwhile, made their deal with Houston for Lin official.

Lin comes to Los Angeles along with first-round and second-round draft picks in 2015 for the rights to center Sergei Lishouk who played last year for Spanish club Valencia, in a deal that helped Houston free up salary cap room.

The Lakers have sufficient cap room to absorb the contract of Lin, who will make about $15 million this season in the last year of a deal that counts only $8 million against the cap.

The 25-year-old Lin, the first American of Chinese or Taiwanese descent to play in the NBA, averaged 12.5 points and 4.1 assists last season but lost his starting job.

"This trade allows us to acquire a solid player who will make us a better team, as well as draft picks to improve our team in the future...," said Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak

Dejected Argentine fans, elated Germans in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Thousands of Argentine football fans gathered on the golden sands of Copacabana beach gasped and then fell into silence when Germany scored a stunning extra-time goal to claim the World Cup title on Sunday.

More than 70,000 Argentina fans packed into Rio de Janeiro in recent days, many traveling upward of 40 hours by car and seemingly all wearing their team's sky-blue jerseys and chanting day and night.

"This was a trauma. We were going to be able to leave singing songs in victory with the glory of the Cup," said Joao Cuenca, who has an Argentine father and a Brazilian mother. "What happened is nothing short of a disaster."

Cuenca spoke from the FIFA Fan Fest area on Copacabana beach, where 20,000 people, mostly Argentine, stood shoulder-to-shoulder in front of a giant TV screen to watch the final.

Some isolated fights broke out both on Copacabana beach and in the area outside the Maracana stadium where the match was played. The scuffles appeared to involve young Brazilian and Argentine men - bitter rivals on and off the pitch.

Police responded quickly. There was a heavy security presence around the stadium and across Rio for the entire day. More than 25,000 police and soldiers were on guard just for the game, according to officials, providing the biggest security detail in Brazilian history.

AP

German supporters celebrate their national team's 1-0 victory over Argentina after the World Cup final soccer match between Germany and Argentina at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, July 13, 2014.

Daniel Brauner, a 28-year-old student from Hamburg, was one of the few German revelers on the beach.

"I can't realize it still. I am very happy of course but I didn't expect for it to be so close," he said, wiping sweat from his brow with the corner of a German flag after his country's 1-0 win. "I was expecting 3-1 for Germany. I suffered, the whole match I suffered."

German fan Marten Caesar, downing beers in celebration with compatriots at a bar just outside the Maracana, said "this final was a real final."

"One goal and that's it. Defense wins tonight and our defense proved it," he said. "They neutralized Messi and Messi was a mess."

Inside the stadium, world leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose nation will host the 2018 World Cup, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel were sitting in the stands with FIFA's President Sepp Blatter, watching some pre-match entertainment.

With Brazil roundly praised for how it has staged the tournament, considered by many fans to be among the most exciting in recent decades, authorities were taking no chances of anything ruining their big day.

Around the Maracana, where 74,000 spectators crammed in for the final, lines of security forces wearing camouflage uniforms and carrying rifles stood watch. Roads were closed and military helicopters buzzed overhead, with Brazilian authorities still wary about violent protests that marred last year's Confederations Cup warm-up event.

Several hundred protesters gathered at a plaza near Maracana a few hours before kickoff, and clashed with police as they neared security perimeters set up roughly 2 kilometers (1.25 miles) from the stadium. Police fired tear gas and stun grenades to disperse the march. At the end of the demonstration, police unleashed the stun grenades gratuitously on a small group of protesters and journalists, and were seen beating some with night sticks. At least one photographer received minor injuries.

For the Brazilian fans, the football ended in disappointment with a 7-1 rout at the hands of the Germans in the semifinals, but the tournament has been hailed as a great success.

''We did ok, yes?'' said a Brazilian walking around the outskirts of the Maracana wearing his team's canary-yellow shirt.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	51	42	.548	–
Toronto	49	46	.516	3
New York	47	46	.505	4
Tampa Bay	43	53	.448	9 1/2
Boston	42	52	.447	9 ½

Central Division

Detroit	53	37	.589	–
Kansas City	47	46	.505	7 1/2
Cleveland	46	47	.495	8 1/2
Chicago	45	50	.474	10 1/2
Minnesota	43	50	.462	11 ½

West Division

Oakland	58	36	.617	–
Los Angeles	56	37	.602	1 1/2
Seattle	51	43	.543	7
Houston	40	55	.421	18 1/2
Texas	38	56	.404	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	51	42	.548	–
Atlanta	52	43	.547	–
New York	45	50	.474	7
Miami	44	50	.468	7½
Philadelphia	42	53	.442	10

Central Division

Milwaukee	53	43	.552	–
St. Louis	52	44	.542	1
Cincinnati	51	44	.537	1½
Pittsburgh	49	46	.516	3½
Chicago	40	54	.426	12

West Division

Los Angeles	54	43	.557	–
San Francisco	52	43	.547	1
San Diego	41	54	.432	12
Colorado	40	55	.421	13
Arizona	40	56	.417	13½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISSED

From Page 28

hind Brazil's five.

"It's an unbelievable feeling. I don't know how to describe it. You just shoot that goal in, you don't really know what's happening," Goetze said. "And then at the end of the match, having a party with the team, the whole country ... it is for us, a dream come true."

At the final whistle, Germany players fell into a pile in a mid-pitch celebration. Messi walked past them with his hands on his hips—still in the shadow of his compatriot Diego Maradona, who led his country to the 1986 title.

The 22-year-old Goetze went on as a substitute for Miroslav Klose near the end of regulation time and his fresh legs made the difference.

Andre Schuerrle broke down the left flank, sending his cross into the area, and the Bayern Munich midfielder did the rest with a clinical finish. The goal echoed that of Andres Iniesta four years ago, when the midfielder scored in similar fashion but from the other side of the area to give Spain a 1-0 extra-time win over the Netherlands.

It went entirely to script, according to Germany coach Joachim Loew.

"I said to Mario Goetze, `OK, show to the world that you're better than Messi and you can decide the World Cup. You have all the possibilities to do that,'" Loew said. "I had a good feeling with him."

Germany became the first European team to win a World Cup in the Americas, and the victory ends a string of near misses since winning its last major title at the 1996 European Championship. The team lost the 2002 World Cup final to Brazil, the Euro 2008 final to Spain and was eliminated in the semifinals in both 2006 and 2010.

Argentina had not been back in the final since that 1990 loss, and has now been beaten by Germany in the last three World Cups.

"This was our chance, and we felt that way. We couldn't do it. We have to lift our heads and suffer the pain," Argentina midfielder Javier Mascherano said. "Obviously, the pain is tremendous."

It is Germany's first World Cup title as a unified nation, having won as West Germany in 1954, 1974 and 1990.

The Germans faced Argentina in both the 1986 and 1990 finals, during Maradona's heyday. This time, they were up against Messi, the four-time world player of the year who has set a slew of scoring records in leading Barcelona to every major club title and is widely considered the best player since Maradona.

But in the biggest game of his career, Messi came up short.

He had one good chance to score when he was sent free in the area just after the halftime break, but sent his shot wide. It was a difficult angle, but still the type of chance he so often converts for Barcelona.

Messi threatened intermittently throughout the match, but was effectively smothered by the German defense. His free kick in the 120th minute went well high.

Messi, who scored four goals in the group stage but none in the knockout rounds, then had to trudge alone up the stairs of the Maracana Stadium to accept the Golden Ball award for the tournament's best player, shaking hands with German Chancellor Angela Merkel along the way.

"At this moment I don't care about this prize—only lifting the trophy matters," Messi said. "I'm hurt for losing the way we did. ... I think we deserved a little better, we had chances. As well as they controlled the ball, we still had the clearest chances." After Messi received his award, the German team made its way up the stairs for captain Philipp Lahm to raise the hallowed 18-carat gold trophy.

Until Goetze's winning goal, the game was more notable for top-class defending than creative attacking, but both teams had their share of chances.

Gonzalo Higuain fired wide when gifted a chance in a one-on-one with goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, and later had a goal ruled out for offside.

Germany defender Benedikt Hoewedes hit the post just before halftime with a header.

Germany had entered the game as the favorite after its 7-1 semifinal drubbing of Brazil. But Argentina proved to be an entirely different proposition.

"I'm very proud of the team. They played a great game against a great team," Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella said. "I salute the players, they made the country proud."

After Germany's last win in 1990, then-coach Franz Beckenbauer predicted that a unified Germany would be "unbeatable" in the future. It took 24 years to prove him right but with young players like Goetze, the next wait may not be as long.

"We, I think, deserve this trophy," Goetze said.

GERMANY

From Page 28

Messi was selected ahead of Thomas Mueller of Germany and Netherlands forward Arjen Robben by FIFA's technical study group of coaching analysts.

Germany's Manuel Neuer collected the best goalkeeper prize.

James Rodriguez of Colombia got the golden boot award as top scorer with six goals. Mueller was second, with five goals.

The best young player award went to Paul Pogba of France.

MESSI

From Page 28

his shot wide to the left. Then there was Messi getting behind the German defense and slipping the ball by Neuer to put a scoring chance on a silver platter for his teammates, but it went for naught as Jerome Boateng alertly cleared the ball off the line.

After Messi missed the far post by inches with a hard, rolling shot—a chance he typically buries—substitute Rodrigo Palacio blew a golden opportunity in the first extra time when his chip attempt over Neuer missed the net completely.

Against a Germany side that never beats itself, Argentina needed to capitalize on at least one chance so it could dig in and defend and tempt a German back line to play an even higher line to get caught on a counterattack. The lack of finishing was the missing ingredient to Sabella's recipe for success.

"The players are quite bitter. They're sad," Sabella said. "We're all sad because we had a huge dream to make it to the final. No doubt we wanted to win the final."

The better team won the game and the tournament. The Germans did to Argentina what they had done to their previous six opponents (except for a short stretch against Ghana): keep possession with a suffocating midfield and slice apart the defense with patience and precision passing.

But even coach Joachim Loew knew how lucky Germany was to not give up a goal, especially on Higuain's chance that was created by Toni Kroos' header that went backward.

"That was very dangerous for us," Loew said.

Criticism will surely be sent Messi's way for not coming up with one last piece of magic to produce the World Cup winning goal. And on Sunday, Messi went through stretches where he was content to let the game come to him. But he was supported by a group of forwards operating at less than 100 percent.

Sergio Aguero came on at halftime in place of the blue-collar Lavezzi but clearly did not have his trademark burst to get by defenders. Boateng is an exceptional defender, athletically gifted enough to play right back and center back, but on at least two occasions he was able to easily dislodge the ball from Aguero. That would never happen if Aguero wasn't carrying a thigh injury.

Even more costly for Messi and Argentina was the absence of Angel Di Maria. He was also dealing with a thigh injury and the Argentines hoped the speedy winger could contribute something to the cause, but Sabella opted for Palacio with his final sub in extra time

With just seconds remaining—after Mario Goetze scored in the 113th minute for the eventual game-winner—Argentina had one last chance with a free kick about 25 yards out. Messi lined up to take it and, fittingly, he sent the ball flying well over the cross bar for another missed opportunity.

"I'm very proud of the boys. They played an extraordinary World Cup," Sabella said. "They improved as they moved on. It was very exciting to see them give their all.

"They can look at themselves in the mirror and say they gave everything for the national team."

Everything but put the ball in the net when they needed it most.

CNMI swimmers leave for Micro Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI swim team is the first Commonwealth squad to make it to Pohnpei for the 8th Micronesian Games.

The squad, which is composed of swimmers Victoria Chentsova, Kento Akimaru, Christian Villacrusis, and Takumi Sugie and coach Jacoby Winkfield, left Saipan early yesterday morning and was expected to arrive at the host state yesterday evening.

The early departure of the Commonwealth's swimmers will give them enough time to practice at the swimming facility in Pohnpei, as the competition at the pool will not kick off until July 21. The swimming races will be held at the improved PNI Swimming Pool, which is located in Kolonia next to the headquarters of the Pohnpei National Olympic Committee. The 50-meter pool was idle for five years before undergoing repair more than a year ago through funds from International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Australian AID program. It was reopened to the public early last year.

The swimming competition will run for three days with the preliminary races beginning at 9am. The afternoon races, which will start at 4pm, are for the medal round. Thirteen events are lined up in Day 1 of the swimming contest with participants from the CNMI, Guam, Pohnpei, Yap, Kosrae, Palau, and Nauru racing in the men's and women's 100m freestyle, 200m breaststroke, 100m backstroke, 200M individual medley, 50 butterfly, 1,500m freestyle, and 4x100m medley relay.

In Day 2, the events are as follows: men's and women's 200m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, 400m IM, 200m backstroke, 100m butterfly, 800m freestyle, 4x100m freestyle relay, and 4x50m medley relay. In the final day of the competition, there will be 13 events: men and women's 200m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle, 100 breaststroke, 400m freestyle, 4x50m freestyle relay, and mixed 4x200m freestyle relay.

Chentsova, the veteran member of the team, will be the CNMI's bet in freestyle races, especially the long distance ones, while the squad will lean on Akimaru in the IMs and breaststroke events. Sugie will lead the Commonwealth's campaign in sprint races, while Villacrusis will also join sprint races in freestyle and breaststroke. *Saipan Tribune* has yet to receive from Winkfield the official list of events of the four CNMI swimmers.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Victoria Chentsova, seen here leading a Guam swimmer in the 400m freestyle race during the SSC International Invitation Meet in March this year at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, is a member of the CNMI swim team that will compete in the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei next week.

The four swimmers are expected to bring home medals from Pohnpei, according to Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation president John Hirsh.

"We are anticipating several medals from our young swimmers. We are very excited for them, for the opportunity to compete against the top swimmers from Micronesia. I hope they will have a great experience in Pohnpei," said Hirsh in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The CNMI ruled the swimming competition in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau with Rezne Wong leading the team. The Commonwealth hauled 35 medals, 23 of them were gold, seven silvers, and five bronzes. Wong won 13 gold medals and one silver to earn the Male Outstanding Athlete award of the 2010 Micronesian Games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players of Saipan TV Hustlers pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the SBA 8-Ball League early this month at the Pacific Islands Club.

Saipan TV Hustlers dominate Tuesday League

Saipan TV Hustlers lorded it over in the Tuesday League division of the 2014 Saipan Billiards Association's 8-Ball League.

The Rowell Mariano-captained squad topped both the regular season and Budweiser Cup of the winter/spring edition of the league, besting four other teams. Joining Mariano on the champion group are Jerry Soriano, Senen Pangilinan, Joey Lucido, Robert Sanciangco, and Erwin Gomez. Saipan TV Production and Bammy's Restaurant are the team's sponsors.

Saipan TV Hustlers prevailed against second finisher Jokers IT&E Voyagers and Jonny's Crazy 8. The runners-up are captained by Rolly Villanueva, while other members include Nolan Cultura, Romand Rodriguez, R.J. Mascarinas, Juancho Mendoza, Chester Cuento, and Joshua Woodson. Rodel Dela Cruz is the captain for the third finisher Crazy 8, which has Warlee Ellama, Rey Pinangay, Don Antonio, Zaldy Quebral, Victor Formales, and Neil Ayson as members.

Ayson was later named top performer in the division during the league's awards ceremony early this month at the Pacific Islands Club. Two other players took individual awards with Gomez getting the MVP plum for the Budweiser Cup and Cultura in the regular season.

In the Thursday League, Jokers Homeboyz's Lucido notched the Budweiser Cup MVP plum, while Wild Bill's Crazy 8's Nong Detdon bagged the regular season MVP honors. Ayson also earned the top performer award in the Thursday League, while playing for Wild Bill's Crazy 8.

In the team award, Wild Bill's Crazy 8 brought home the Budweiser Cup, while Jokers Homeboyz won the regular season, downing Wild Bill's and Poseidon Warriors.

Joining Ayson and Detdon on Wild Bill's Crazy 8 are Juancho Mendoza, Pinangay, Dela Cruz, Jack Thoensaket, and Victor Formales. Jokerz Homeboyz has George Lizardo, Cuktura, Lucido, Villanueva, Joseph Achas, Woodson, Cesar Sangalang, and Ermin Nupable.

Meanwhile, Jonny's Team SCS and Bammy's Equalizers took the sportsmanship awards in the Thursday and Tuesday divisions, respectively. ***(RBM)***

Fiesta Resort closes out first round with victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan capped the first round of the regular season of the 2014 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League with an 84-74 win over Kanoa Resort last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Fiesta Resort, which ended the first round with second-best 4-1 record, managed to take the double-digit winning margin despite a later rally from Kanoa Resort. Kanoa Resort fell behind by as much as 16 points in the fourth quarter, 68-52, but moved within four in the last 1:25 of the match, 71-75, off Edward Armia's putback from a missed bonus shot from Mico Usi. However, Fiesta scored back-to-back baskets in less than 30 seconds to restore order on the team and foil Kanoa's comeback bid.

Quarterback Adonis Macoto, second stringer Jun Bello, and big man Joseph Villamena teamed up in Fiesta's four-point swing. Macoto called the play for Fiesta after Armia's basket, drove to the lane, and then dished the ball out to the waiting hands of Villamena, who was on the right shade lane and hit the point-blanked shot.

Action continued after Villamena's bucket, but Kanoa's Dindo Pablo lost the leather when Bello sneaked from behind and tapped the ball away. Macoto went on to pick up the loose ball and converted a layup to give Fiesta more breathing room, 53 seconds left on the clock.

Two botched Kanoa plays allowed Fiesta to increase its lead, as Villamena nailed another basket from the same spot, while Paul Quizon drilled his first triple in the match to bring the team's lead back to twin digits, 84-71, eight second to go in the match. With the impending loss, Armia hung on to the ball for a while before pulling up for a triple at the buzzer to peg the final score.

Kanoa absorbed its second straight loss after a 3-0 start, while Fiesta won its last two in the first round. The opposing teams were in a close battle in the first half before Fiesta gain cushion behind the seven points of Esdrelon. Esdrelon finished with a game-high 35 points, while Macoto and Quizon chipped in 12 and 11, respectively. Matt Duenas paced Kanoa with his 25 markers, while Mico Usi added 19 and Armia contributed 16.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Ralph Lavarias pulls up for a short jumper against Kanoa Resort's Matt Duenas during the fourth quarter of their game in the Tan Holdings caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Meanwhile, results of the two other games last Saturday will be reported later this week.

Fiesta Resort 84 – Esdrelon 35, Macoto 12, Quizon 11, Matsutaro 6, Villamena 6 Alakoa 6, Galag 2, Lavarias 2.

Kanoa Resort 74 – Duenas 25, Usi 19, Armia 16, Pablo 8, Huliganga 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-11, 39-35, 60-50.

Mets earn 3-game sweep over Marlins
PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Pau Gasol tweets he's joining Chicago Bulls
PAGE 24

AP

Germany's Bastian Schweinsteiger raises the trophy after the World Cup final soccer match between Germany and Argentina at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, July 13, 2014. Germany won the match, 1-0.

Germany wins World Cup on Goetze's goal

By MATTIAS KAREN
AP SPORTS WRITER

Mario Goetze produced the piece of individual skill that Lionel Messi couldn't muster.

With two quick, deft touches, Goetze ended Germany's 24-year wait for another World Cup title with an extra-time winner against Argentina on Sunday—denying Messi the one title he needs to forever take his place among the game's all-time greats.

It was the moment of brilliance that ensured Germany's 1-0 victory in a tight and tense final.

Goetze, who wasn't born when West Germany beat Argentina in the 1990 final, controlled a cross with his chest in the 113th minute and in one fluid motion volleyed the ball past goalkeeper Sergio Romero and inside the far post from five yards out.

It delivered Germany its fourth World Cup title, equal second with Italy on the list of all-time champions and just be-

See GERMANY on Page 26

AP

Argentina's head coach Alejandro Sabella stands with Javier Mascherano (14) after the World Cup final soccer match between Germany and Argentina at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, July 13, 2014.

Messi takes best player award

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Lionel Messi has received the award for best player of the World Cup, minutes after his Argentina team lost the final 1-0 to Germany.

See MESSI on Page 26

Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, left, winner of the Golden Glove award for best goalkeeper, shakes hands with Argentina's Lionel Messi, winner of the Golden Ball award as the tournament's top player, after the World Cup final soccer match between Germany and Argentina at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, July 13, 2014.

AP

Missed opportunities doom Argentina

Head coach Alejandro Sabella believed Argentina had to play a perfect game in order to beat a dominant Germany team in the World Cup final Sunday at Maracana Stadium.

The Argentines had to be gritty defensively, and they were, as midfield general Javier Mascherano willed his teammates to a scoreless 90 minutes. They had to expose the German defense, and they did, using a game plan that France employed in the quarterfinals—lofting balls over the top of the defense—and executing it better than the French as Gonzalo Higuain, Ezequiel Lavezzi and Lionel Messi timed their runs to latch onto the passes.

But Argentina wasn't perfect in front of goal, where Sabella and his players will regretfully say the opportunity at Argentina's third World Cup title was lost.

"To be perfect," Sabella said, "we needed to be more efficient." The missed chances ranged from unlucky to incomprehensible.

First, there was Higuain being played clear onto goal with only goalkeeper Manuel Neuer to beat but he somehow pulled

See MISSED on Page 26